THE HIGHER UNITED NATIONS DEFENSE ENFORCEMENT RESERVES

T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS™

ARCHIVES

VOLUME TWO

THUNDER AGENTS

THE T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS ARCHIVES Volume Two collects T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents *Nos. 5-7 and* Dynamo *No. 1 in their entirety, completely restored and recolored — and includes an insightful foreword by Michael Uslan and Robert Klein.*

In the mid-sixties there was an explosion of new super-hero titles from virtually every comics publisher on the market — ACG, Archie, Charlton, Dell, and Gold Key — not to mention new titles from up-and-coming Marvel Comics and mainstay DC Comics. But there was one new title from that time that still stands out all these decades later, published by a then-new comics division of a small paperback publisher with the name of Tower Comics — *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents.*

The T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents were a secret team of super-technology-powered policemen — Dynamo and his Thunderbelt; NoMan, the multibodied living android, and his cloak of invisibility; Menthor and his psionic helmet — assembled by the United Nations to combat tyranny and evil across the world, especially the menace of the Warlord and his dastardly minions.

The creative mastermind behind *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* was the legendary Wally Wood, and it would prove to be his longest sustained involvement with any single title. In addition to packaging the books for Tower, Wood contributed pencils, inks, stories, *and* the work of his friends in the comics industry — and what friends they were: Steve Ditko, Gil Kane, Reed Crandall, Dan Adkins, Mike Sekowsky, George Tuska, Dick Ayers, Mike Esposito, John Giunta, Len Brown, Larry Ivie and more all contributed art or scripts to the early issues.

Here, at last (and after numerous attempts at revivals of the title), old fans and new can see where it all started...

DC COMICS

DC COMICS
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS™

ARCHIVES VOLUME 2

THE T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS ARCHIVES

VOLUME 2.

ISBN 1-56389-970-1.

Published by DC Comics.
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DC Comics
1700 Broadway
New York, NY 10019

A division of Warner Bros. —
An AOL Time Warner Company

Printed in Hong Kong

First Printing.

THE DC ARCHIVE EDITIONS

Cover illustration by WALLY WOOD with DAN ADKINS.

Cover color reconstruction by DIGITAL CHAMELEON.

Black and white reconstruction by RICK KEENE.

Color reconstruction by JAMISON.

Special thanks to HANS CHRISTIAN VANG and NEIL A. HANSEN for source materials, and F.J DESANTO.

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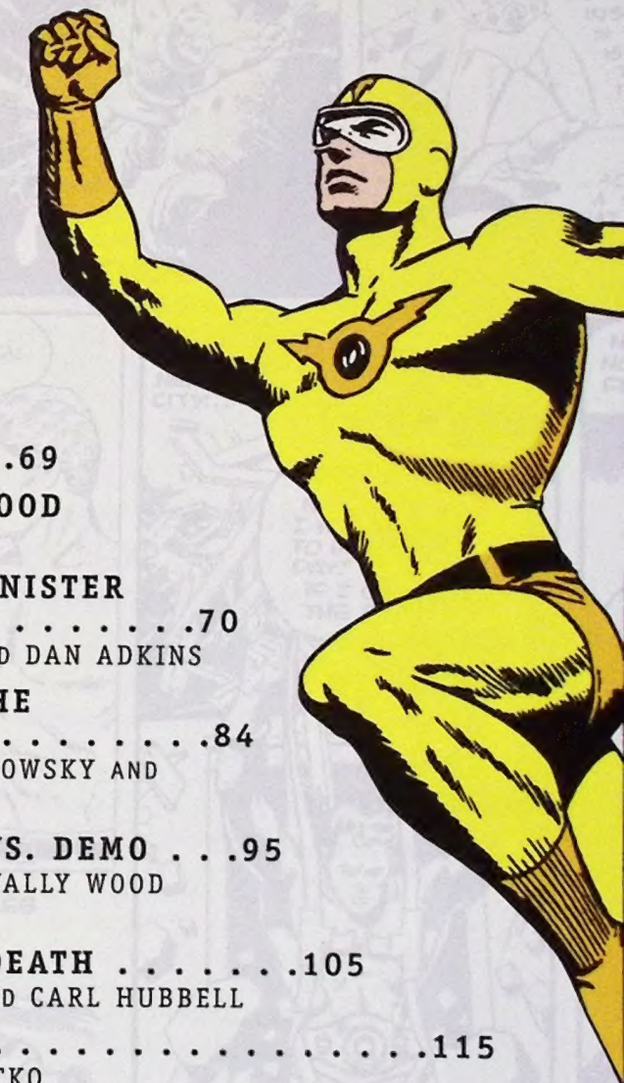

T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS

It was commonplace in the comic-book industry of the 1960s for an owner to have multiple corporations. In the 1940s, for example, DC had Detective Comics, Inc., All-American Comics, Inc., and Superman, Inc. In the 1950s, Marvel/Atlas seemed to have a different corporation listed for every different comic-book title it published. And so, if Archie had a sister company in Belmont Books, Belmont Books may have had a half-sister in Tower Books. Now, just imagine if the backer of Tower Books had firsthand experience (via Archie Comics' reentrance into the super-hero comic-book marketplace) with the success of the Silver Age renaissance in the sales figures department. Deciding to make a side investment and start his own line of super-hero comics, he called upon his old friend and employee Harry Shorten, an early comic-book writer and the first editor of *Pep Comics* (which introduced The Shield to the world in its premiere issue) as well as the original MLJ super-hero line of comics in the 1940s. Shorten would pull together the key people who could execute the business plan. Familiar with the talent from his years at Archie, Shorten hired Archie veterans Samm Schwartz, Dan DeCarlo, Harry Lucey, and Bill Vigoda.

Tower comics were, like Archie comics, distributed by a company called PDC (Publishers Distribution Corporation). In our 1965 interview with him, Schwartz hinted to us that Archie Comics had long been using PDC but had decided to switch to a competitor. This left PDC with no comics to distribute, but with an expensive distribution organization sitting idle. To PDC, the solution was simple — invent some new comics that they could distribute. PDC went looking for people to start the new venture. Perhaps because of its former close relationship with Archie, PDC went to a publisher who had some ownership and editorial links with Archie. Tower was then simply a small publisher of paperbacks and magazines. Now, the two companies agreed to go forward together with a comic-book line.

As one last sidenote to the mystery of Tower Comics' ownership, a publishing corporation (with offices uncannily located at 185 Madison Avenue) that published a line of what in the 1960s were often referred to as "girlie" magazines had one such title called *Cavalcade*. Clearly, anyone in the G-rated comic-book industry wouldn't relish a connection to this publishing genre. Different corporations might help prevent any such association. Amazingly, *Cavalcade*'s September 1966 issue featured a black and white comic-book story, seemingly shot right from the original art, called "The Return of The Iron Maiden." It was reprinted from *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents #4* (April 1966), with ten word balloons altered to make the dialogue read as high camp as possible (i.e., Dynamo: "Beware, forces of evil! Virtue and clean living have arrived!") in order to make it appeal to the adult males whom the magazine's editor thought might enjoy the character of Iron Maiden.

By 1966, there were new comic-book titles emerging from Tower. In January, Tower introduced *Undersea Agent* as a companion to *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents*. It was very different from *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* in both concept and execution. Another 68-page giant-sized book, it was produced outside of Wally Wood's shop and unifying influence. In the first issues, the book had a single star — Lieutenant Davy Jones of U.N.D.E.R.S.E.A. (The **U**nited **N**ations **D**epartment of **E**xperiment and **R**esearch **S**ystems **E**stablished at **A**tlantis), which was a sort of super-peacekeeper organization like T.H.U.N.D.E.R, just, well, underwater. While *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* made use of many different features in each issue, *Undersea Agent* made Davy Jones the sole lead character for the first four issues. The title was produced under the artistic control of Ray Bailey, a former assistant to Milton Caniff, and his retro style of art was coolly received by fans of the day. The best of *Undersea Agent* arguably began with issue #3, when Gil Kane tried to redefine the character and his look. Kane was gunning for his own kind of "Wally Wood dream deal" to package material fairly autonomously for Tower. It was a deal that would not come to pass.

You want Action?
YOU WANT ACTION— YOU'VE GOT IT! ACTION AN EXCITEMENT GALORE!
HERE IT IS!
JOIN US IN THE WAR AS IT IS FOUGHT IN THE STEAMING, TRAP FILLED, TREACHEROUS JUNGLE OF VIET NAM... JOIN US IN A COMMANDO RAID DEEP IN NAZI HELD TERRITORY... FLY WITH US AS WE TAKE OFF ON A BOMBING MISSION OVER JAPAN... COME WITH US AS WE FERRET OUT ENEMY AGENTS IN A COLD WAR THAT'S AS HOT AND DEADLY AS ANY FRONT-LINE BATTLE!
ALL THIS AND MORE AS WE MEET THE MEN WHOSE JOB IT WAS TO FIND THE ENEMY... FIX THE ENEMY... FIGHT THE ENEMY
FIGHT THE ENEMY
25¢
on sale now!

Early in the summer of 1966, just a year into the comics business, Tower added more titles to its line. In July, a companion book to its Archie-style *Tippy Teen* comic book was introduced: *Tippy's Friends, Go-Go* and *Animal*. The next month,

FOREWORD

Fight the Enemy #1, a giant-sized war comic, was published. This was basically an anthology title devoted to the genre and, as readers of 1966 could easily discern from the cover of the first issue, it was even willing to tackle the increasingly controversial war in Vietnam. The full logo read, "You are there... as we find the enemy... fix the enemy... *Fight the Enemy*." With stories by writers like Otto Binder and Russ Jones, *Fight the Enemy* featured a menagerie of art styles from such pros as Mike Sekowsky, Frank Giacoia, Jerry Grandenetti, Dick Giordano, José Delbo, Joe Giella, Frank Bolle, Ray Bailey, Russ Jones, Al McWilliams, Chic Stone, and, of course, Wally Wood. It also showcased a rare interior art job by Boris Vallejo and a bit of war humor courtesy of Samm Schwartz. Amid the war tales appeared a continuing character called Mike Manley, a secret agent created by Dick Giordano in the style of the Sarge Steel character he had created for Charlton. But since this is THE T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS ARCHIVES and not THE TOWER ARCHIVES, we must leave a more complete analysis of *UNDERSEA Agent* and *Fight the Enemy* for a future collection.

T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents itself showed no signs of resting on its laurels. With issue #5, readers were treated to another beautiful Reed Crandall/Wally Wood/Dan Adkins collaboration. Wood delighted in placing Dynamo in different settings — this one is largely underground. Elsewhere in this Archive Edition our hero can be found in the jungle, under the sea, in outer space, in New York City, and cavorting with dinosaurs. It seemed like the versatile Woody wanted to show us a different look each time.

Wood and the other writers were also developing Dynamo's character. The tongue-in-cheek humor was emphasized a bit more to show Dynamo's boyish, clumsy side. As Menthor put it, "You may not be smart, Len, but you sure are lucky."

NoMan received an artistic upgrade in issue #5 in Gil Kane's first *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* story since issue #1. A story by Kane was always welcome, and, with Wood's inks, the collaboration looked sleek and powerful, just as it would in their DC series CAPTAIN ACTION, which followed in 1968.

Menthor was caught in a rut. Not only did he lose his helmet to a villain in issue #5, he lost it at least once in every *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* issue in this volume — sometimes twice. And in issues #5 and #6, he found that even two-bit carny mentalists were giving him a run for his money. What a comedown from battling the Warlords! The stories seemed flat, plain, and repetitious. But whatever shortcomings these Menthor stories had, issue #7's Menthor tale more than made up for them.

Lightning stood apart from the other agents. With a regular writer (Steve Skeates) and a regular artist (Mike Sekowsky), Lightning was able to establish a consistency and a rhythm that was lacking in NoMan and Menthor with their constantly rotating writers and artists. In the issues collected here, Lightning's stories provided more traditional super-hero fare than the others — the Warlords were absent from his stories until later, so his adversaries were quirky criminals like Baron von Kampf and the Warp Wizard. Lightning's stories were so different in tone and style from Dynamo, NoMan, and the rest that it seemed there was little editorial coordination. Indeed, that was the situation. As his major input on the *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* book, Samm Schwartz served as editor for the Lightning stories with little consultation with Wood.

Lightning was initially envisioned as traveling via space-warp as opposed to simply using super-speed. When artist Mike Sekowsky drew the first story, he changed the idea, bringing Lightning more in line with DC's Flash. To Sekowsky, this was a better visual approach. The change was made permanent with the added twist that Lightning would age about a year every time he used his super-speed. The space-warping power was

WAIT A MINUTE... I SAID I'D JOIN YOU...I DIDN'T SAY I LOVE YOU! I CAN HAVE ANY GIRL I WANT!
OHH! YOU MAKE ME SO MAD SOMETIMES... I COULD KILL YOU... OR KISS YOU...

mystery tales — had come to NoMan! As an artist for NoMan, he seemed a perfect match. Atmosphere? Mood? Ditko was The Man. Dark sweeping shadows, long cloaks, dramatic gestures — he was redefining NoMan as a mysterious figure, a concept which hadn't been seen since issue #1 when Reed Crandall drew the android agent. Ditko's sense of drama and mystery, honed in his early years and brought to peak on Dr. Strange, served him well here. It seemed he was developing a whole new direction for NoMan. Confused fans who had identified Ditko so closely with the Marvel Bullpen didn't know that he had just left Marvel; he did this story as a one-shot on the way to his gig at Charlton Comics Group, where he would reinvent Blue Beetle and his own 1960s creation, Captain Atom.

We looked forward to Ditko's NoMan in the next issues, but he never drew another solo NoMan tale for Tower. He did come back triumphantly to the *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents*, but those are tales best left for a later T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS ARCHIVES volume.

T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents #7 was a landmark in several respects. For starters, its cover was the first one not featuring Dynamo in a prominent role. Tower's number two man — errr, android — had this cover all to himself. It's possible that the Tower editors wanted to showcase NoMan in anticipation of the debut of his own book, which would appear several months later. More important, *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* #7 was the setup for the climax of the conflict between T.H.U.N.D.E.R. and the Warlords as both sides headed toward the grand finale in issue #8.

Dynamo had the lead story in *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* #7, as usual. With The Iron Maiden, the story featured another installment of the love/hate relationship between the two. As the T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents arrived on the final page, Dynamo allowed The Iron Maiden to escape. Dynamo declared the old scores to be settled and vowed that he'd show no mercy when they met again. These were strong words from a man who turned to marshmallow at the slightest whiff of Iron Maiden's perfume.

There was a returnee artist to the Tower bullpen in this issue. George Tuska, who had helped out Gil Kane by drawing several pages of the very first Menthor story back in *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* #1, now was back to pencil a T.H.U.N.D.E.R Agents ensemble chapter highlighting Dynamo. With Wood and his studio over their heads in work, Tuska became a regular artist, particularly shining on the lighter "Weed" features in later issues of *Dynamo*. In this chapter, the T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents captured a Warlord for the first time, an important piece of the puzzle percolating since issue #1 and careening now toward a very dramatic resolution.

instead given to the Warp Wizard, who returned time and again to bedevil Lighting as his archfoe.

Readers were accustomed to surprises in the constantly changing lineup of T.H.U.N.D.E.R. artists, but when *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* #6 hit the newsstands it sent shock waves throughout fandom. Steve Ditko — the same Steve Ditko from Spider-Man, Dr. Strange, and about a million five-page Marvel

The NoMan tale took an unusual turn and explored the psychological consequences of trapping the aging Dr. Dunn's human mind in an immortal android's body. This was one of the very few times that NoMan's human origins were even mentioned, much less used in a story. The writers had all missed out by not using that springboard even once, but with so many scripters involved and changing month by month, a lot of novel ideas never had a chance to blossom. In this story by scripter Bill Pearson, Dr. Dunn/NoMan found himself attracted to a young woman, and struggled with the gulf that separated the two of them. The problem was sidestepped when an undercover spy attempted to exploit NoMan's momentary weakness. There was a great moment in this story when T.H.U.N.D.E.R. bureaucrats, looking at NoMan as just another government employee, complained, 'This is too much! NoMan is losing androids at a fantastic rate!" and "Those androids are worth millions!"

The story concluded without settling the issue of NoMan's human needs, and seemed to leave the possibility that there would be some sort of sequel or follow-up. Although later stories mentioned NoMan's longing for his humanity, it was never again explored satisfactorily. Remember, this was years before The Vision or Red Tornado would deal with the same issues. It was another fresh idea that *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* brought to comics — one of many that influence the medium to this day.

Imagine, if you can, the shock, the surprise, the impact of

issue #7's Menthor story, "A Matter of Life and Death," written by Dan Adkins. It would feature the death of Menthor, and no reader ever saw it coming. How could they? This was the sixties, and readers had never experienced the death of a major comics super-hero. It just wasn't done in the Silver Age. Ever. It hit fans like a bolt from the blue. This certainly wasn't "Menthor will feel better next issue." This was too dramatic, too powerful, and too final. No, Tower meant it. This was the real thing.

The story behind the story is that Wood and Adkins had become disenchanted with the Menthor character. The stories just didn't have the visual punch that they were striving for. After consulting with Wood, Adkins himself wrote the story and decided to really, really write Menthor out. Wanting Menthor to go out in a blaze of glory, Adkins presented the story to Wood. After a bit of debate, they went ahead with it and perhaps hid under their desks, waiting for the fan mail to start pouring in.

Maybe the fact that an artist wrote the story resulted in such a strong visual impact. Was the pencilling assignment given to Steve Ditko, master of comics drama, because Wood felt he could best do it justice? We may never know, but it seems very possible. Whatever the reasons, everything seemed to come together in this one. Ditko's touch with mood and atmosphere — the shadows, the expressions, the poses, and the coloring — all contributed to the drama. And very few could tell a story in the way that Steve Ditko could. It would take an artist of his caliber to deliver the power of the final pages with so few words. Looking at the body language of the characters, one can follow the story without reading the script. These poses and expressions would resonate with many of the memorable death scenes of major characters well into the present day.

Contrast Menthor's final story to the death of Egghead, an original member of the T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Squad, in *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* #2. One panel he's there, then an explosion in the next panel, and in the third panel he's gone. No reaction from his teammates. Never to be mentioned again. It's over in three panels, with no prior foreshadowing, build-up or tension. No consequences, repercussions, or emotions. Menthor's finale is totally different in mood, impact, and meaning.

Tower had broken new ground again. The last few pages of the story represented the apex of Wally Wood's overall editorial policy of using minimal script while relying on the drawings to propel the story. And looking beyond the surprise of Menthor's heroic self-sacrifice, readers had never seen comic-book heroes driven to the murderous rage shown by the T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents here. When it was all over, the readers had to catch their collective breath.

Ditko was not done with Tower, by the way, or with Wally Wood. In the second half of the *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* run the two super-stars would team up again for a great series of stories centered on Andor, the Warlord's super-human introduced in *Dynamo* #1. These would be some of the best stories of the *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* run. Apparently feeling good about working together, Wood and Ditko took their collaboration on the road and did a number of stories for other publishers over the next several years, but few ever hit the heights they achieved together at Tower.

Dynamo #1 (August 1966) was the first super-hero spin-off book from Tower, and it was, quite simply, a gem of the Silver Age. Like *Undersea Agent* before it, *Dynamo* was essentially a one-man show. One might think that a one-character book of 54 story pages might get a little stale and repetitious, but that would be selling Wally Wood's inventiveness short.

In the five stories in this landmark issue, the imagination of Wally Wood and company ran free from one idea to another. First came a great science-fiction adventure, "Menace from the Moon." For drama, Dan Adkins pencilled this story as if it would one day hang in the Louvre. (Some fans still think it should.) There were sequel stories to this adventure in *Dynamo* #3 and #4 that proved to be worthy follow-ups.

Dynamo received the tongue-in-cheek treatment in "A Day in the Life of Dynamo," a slightly-more-improbable-than-usual tale. Mike Sekowsky handled the humor angle very nicely, keeping it funny without losing the super-hero aspect of the story. Check out the scene where Dynamo is shaving in front of his bathroom mirror and working up the courage to ask The Chief for a raise. Can you imagine Batman doing that? This is one of the little touches that made the T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents so much fun.

As for the story featuring the return of the villainous Dr. Sparta, here once again were gorgeous Reed Crandall pencils with complementary inks by Wally Wood, Dan Adkins, and the Wood studio. At the other end of the spectrum,

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T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents was produced by Tower Comics, the original publisher. Since there are no records from that time, the credits above reflect the most accurate information possible we have been able to determine.

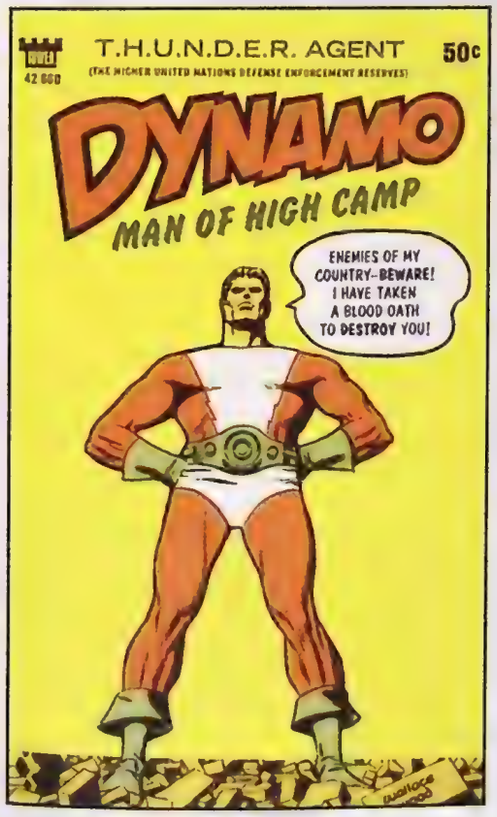
FOREWORD

by ROBERT KLEIN and MICHAEL USLAN

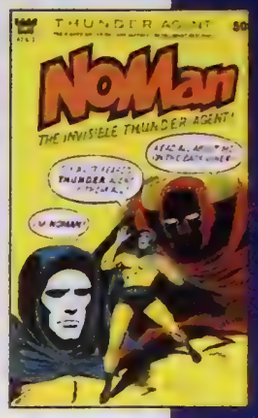
After the first four spectacular issues, *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* was accelerating. It was the sixties, so think of it as a rocket that had just cleared the launch pad — it didn't crash on takeoff, it was on course, and all systems were go! Tower Comics Group was launching ambitious plans for additional publications in comics and beyond, and the Silver Age never looked better.

But just who was "Tower" and how did they come to be? The history of Tower Comics, Inc. begins with a bit of a detective story. Where did they come from? Who really was their financial backer? Based on years of research, fan-journalist writings, and, in particular, our own unannounced visit in late 1965 to the Tower offices at 185 Madison Avenue in New York, we can make an educated guess.

We may have been only fourteen years old in 1965, but we wanted to know everything we could about our favorite comic books, so we took the train to New York City and went to Tower to ask lots of questions. Managing editor Samm Schwartz kindly devoted an hour of his time at the end of his workday to be interviewed by us. A bit of the Tower puzzle became clearer as he explained that the company published not only comic books, but magazines and paperback books as well.


T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENT
50c
(THE HIGHER UNITED NATIONS DEFENSE ENFORCEMENT RESERVES)
DYNAMO
MAN OF HIGH CAMP
ENEMIES OF MY COUNTRY—BEWARE! I HAVE TAKEN A BLOOD OATH TO DESTROY YOU!

Apparently, Louis Silberkleit, one of the MLJ boys who founded what is today the Archie Comics empire, had other investments in magazine and paperback book publishing which were not directly part of his Archie portfolio. One of those companies was Belmont Books, which in April 1966 would publish a paperback book entitled *High Camp Super-Heroes*, reprinting comic-book stories of the Archie Comics super-heroes, including Fly-Man, The Shield, The Web, and Steel Sterling. Later in 1966, Tower Books would echo the earlier Belmont paperback book by publishing four paperback reprint collections of its own which also emphasized "high camp," (a fad begat by the premiere of the *Batman* TV series that previous January). These Tower Books paperbacks were reprints of the earliest *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* comics and were entitled *Dynamo, Man of High Camp, NoMan, Menthor,* and *The Terrific Trio,* which teamed them up. (It's interesting to note that in the April 1966 issue of Archie Comics' *Mighty Crusaders #4,* in a story reviving all the MLJ characters of the Golden Age, three Archie heroes formed a new super-group called . . . The Terrific Three. Hmmm...) But the Tower Comics people obviously had little to do with these paperbacks — look at the errors: Dynamo's suit is miscolored red and white on his book's cover while The Warlord is proclaiming himself to be NoMan on the cover of the *NoMan* book! As if that weren't enough, Dynamo is referred to by his original pre-publication name, Thunderbolt, within his own paperback. The corrected version was lost somewhere in transit to the paperback book side of the Tower offices. Clearly, Tower was a small operation without some of the niceties of the big publishers.



T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS

T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Squad member Weed Wiley was featured in the very slapstick "Wonder Weed, Super Hero." Surprisingly, John Giunta's pencils worked very nicely. Fans used to his art for years on Archie Comics' *The Fly* had never seen him draw a comedy before. This silly side of the T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents became a regular feature in Dynamo's book, quickly becoming a fan favorite in an era when no one took their comic-book heroes too seriously — instead enjoying the sense of fun, the sense of wonder, and the sheer entertainment value of it all.

Perhaps the story with the longest-lasting impact was the origin of Andor. The super-powered human pawn of the Warlords, Andor was sent to the surface world to destroy T.H.U.N.D.E.R. and pave the way for the Warlords' conquest. Described in the books as "a product of the Subterraneans' science... a series of radiation treatments and injections, as well as the replacement of various internal systems, has transformed him completely. What was once a normal human child has become the most dangerous creature alive! Denied normal human affection and warmth, and taught to regard the human race as his enemy, he has survived the defeat of his creators and is now at large, whereabouts unknown." Andor was Wolverine long before there was a Wolverine. He became a recurring character and would face all of the Agents, though his encounters with Dynamo were the most memorable. With this story serving as Andor's introduction, Woody set up the comic book for some of the best stories of the second half of the *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* run. In addition to pencilling this first Andor tale, Ditko came back for some of the follow-ups as well.

All the T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agent books developed a strong continuity and backstory when the Wood studio was in charge, and that was the case with the *Dynamo* spinoff. NoMan was a prominent guest star in many of the stories in the *Dynamo* issues. Woody seemed to have a particular fondness for the invisible man. Also, NoMan was very handy at turning on Dynamo's Thunderbelt whenever Dynamo was tied up, which was a good deal of the time — an occurrence almost as frequent as Menthor's losing his helmet.

At this point in Tower's history, readers had to wonder if this company was really on the threshold of becoming a "player" in the comics world. (One sure sign is when the Distinguished Competition begins to parody you, as DC did with its "H.U.R.R.I.C.A.N.E. Agents" takeoff in the pages of INFERIOR FIVE #1, and as Marvel did in its "B.L.U.N.D.E.R. Agents" story in the pages of *Not Brand Ecch! #2.*) With double-sized issues of *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents, Undersea Agent, Tippy Teen, Tippy's Friends, Go-Go and Animal, Fight the Enemy,* and *Dynamo,* they were now producing a lot of material. NoMan was in line for his own book, too — there had been hints in the *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* letters pages. But Tower's own burgeoning success was to become its undoing in the long run. The expansion was already putting a strain on Woody (who had won The National Cartoonists Society Award for Best Comic Book Artist of 1965) and his studio, and they were hunting for new artists. Ditko was here, Kane made a reappearance, and fans were looking forward to upcoming issues to see which Silver Age artist would show up next.

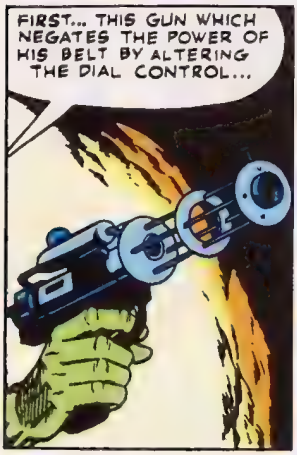
It was a great ride — *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* was a continuous surprise. The unique mix of story, art, and character blazed a new trail, one very different from what readers were getting from DC and Marvel. While each issue had some disappointments, each issue also had some great moments, and every issue included something new. And all the while we knew that we were heading for the ultimate conclusion in *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* #8. "Final Encounter" would be the wild climax to the battle begun in "Initial Encounter" in *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* #1, and it will kick off the very next volume of THE T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS ARCHIVES. Don't miss it!

— ROBERT KLEIN & MICHAEL USLAN 2003

THE HIGHER UNITED NATIONS DEFENSE ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
T.H.U.N.D.E.R.
AGENTS
25¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
JUNE
No. 5
THE 'MASTERMIND' CREATES A
"DOUBLE FOR DYNAMO"
WOOD

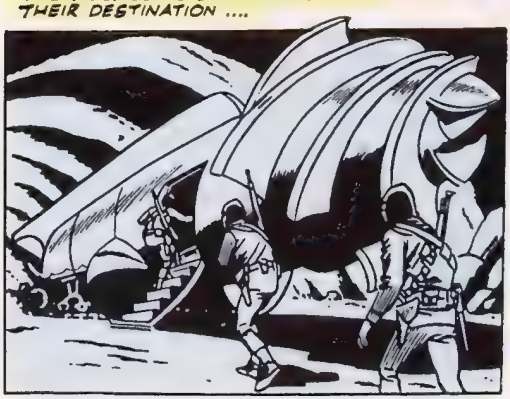
DYNAMO
AND THE
GOLEM

THREE MILES UNDERGROUND THE COUNCIL OF WARLORDS HAS BEEN ASSEMBLED BY "THE OVERLORD"....
...WE HAVE WEAPONS DEVELOPED SPECIFICALLY TO DESTROY DYNAMO, THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE TO OUR CONQUEST OF THE EARTH!


FIRST... THIS GUN WHICH NEGATES THE POWER OF HIS BELT BY ALTERING THE DIAL CONTROL...

SECOND.... A PICKED SQUAD OF ASSASSINS WILL ARRANGE THE MEETING BETWEEN DYNAMO AND...

.... THE GOLEM AN ANDROID WITH THE STRENGTH OF 100 MEN!

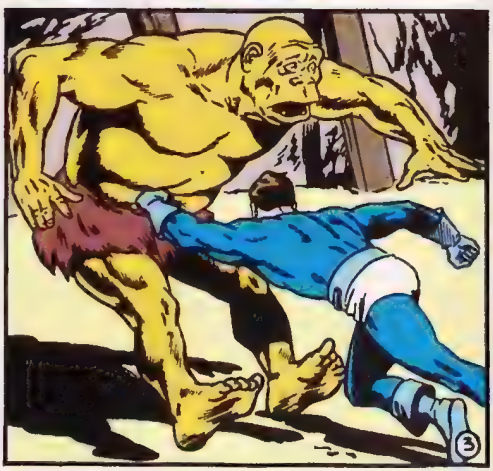

" THE OPERATION IS TO BE SET IN MOTION IMMEDIATELY. THE "IRON MOLE" WILL TRANSPORT THE ASSASSINS UNDERGROUND TO THEIR DESTINATION ....

...IN A FEW SHORT HOURS, THE EARTH SUBMARINE BURROWS UP INTO THE LOWEST LEVEL OF A GOVERNMENT THORIUM MINE...
2

WITHIN MINUTES....

WE DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE, BUT ENEMY AGENTS WITH HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS HAVE TAKEN OVER OUR BIGGEST THORIUM MINE. DYNAMO, YOU CAN FIND OUT QUICKEST JUST WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST!

BUT DYNAMO REACHES THE PLACE OF INTRUSION WITHOUT MEETING THE HINT OF A FOE...



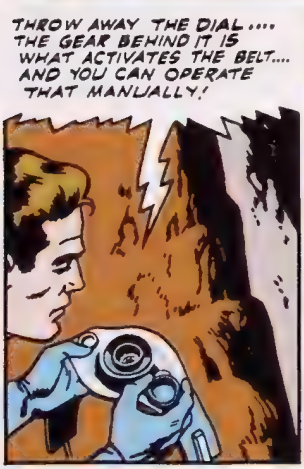
NOW YOU'RE STARTING TO GET ME MAD!!
USE THE REMOTE CONTROL GUN! THEN THE GOLEM CAN FINISH HIM OFF!
HE WONT STAND STILL!
4

NOW!
ZZ ZAP!
WAIT! THE WARLORDS WISH THE PLEASURE OF WITNESSING HIS DEATH!
CARRY HIM BACK TO THE "IRON MOLE".
IN THE TEMPORARY CAVE HEADQUARTERS OF THE WARLORDS...
DON'T TOUCH HIS BELT.... IT'S BOOBY TRAPPED!
IT'S USELESS ANYWAY— THE DIAL'S JAMMED!
THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS WE WANT TO ASK YOU.
YOU CAN HAVE MY NAME RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER! ... IF I HAD A RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER.
5

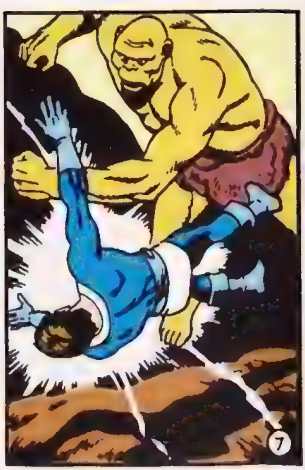
INSOLENT FOOL! WE COULD KILL YOU NOW—
WON'T MATTER TO YOU ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. MY BELT IS TRANS-MITTING NOT ONLY YOUR VOICES BUT YOUR LOCATION AS WELL!
T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS ARE CLOSING IN RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT! YOU CAN BE SURE OF THAT!
KILL HIM QUICKLY!!
FLAMING LAVA WILL DESTROY THAT INFERNAL BELT ONCE AND FOR ALL IN THE EARTH'S CORE!
OH-OH! IF HE GETS ME NOW WITHOUT THE BELT WORKING I'M MASHED POTATOES!
GOLEM! GET HIM!
MIND IF I BORROW THIS FOR A MINUTE...?
6

...EMPTY!

DYNAMO CALLING THUNDER DO YOU READ ME....
WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT MY BELT...THEY'VE JAMMED THE DIAL!


THROW AWAY THE DIAL.... THE GEAR BEHIND IT IS WHAT ACTIVATES THE BELT.... AND YOU CAN OPERATE THAT MANUALLY!

HE'S SEEN ME! THIS HAD BETTER WORK!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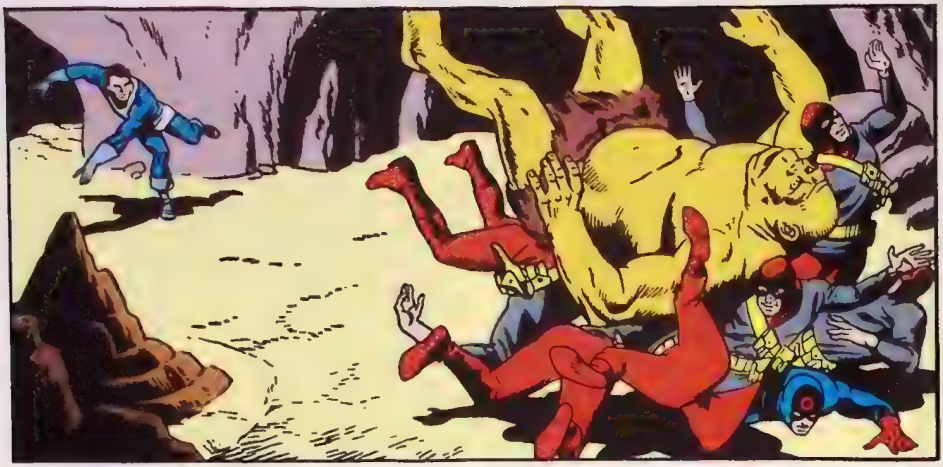
TOO LATE, HANDSOME! THE BELT'S ON AGAIN!
OUTSIDE THE CAVE ENTRANCE MENTHOR HAS LANDED AND RACES TO ASSIST HIS COMPANION....
HANG ON DYNAMO I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
THIS TIME WE WON'T BOTHER DELAYING YOUR EXECUTION!
GOLEM! HOLD IT! YOU CAN HAVE HIM IN JUST A....
IT'S MENTHOR! RUSH HIM!
I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM....
8

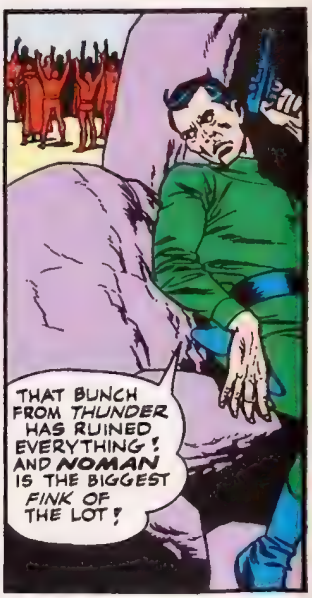


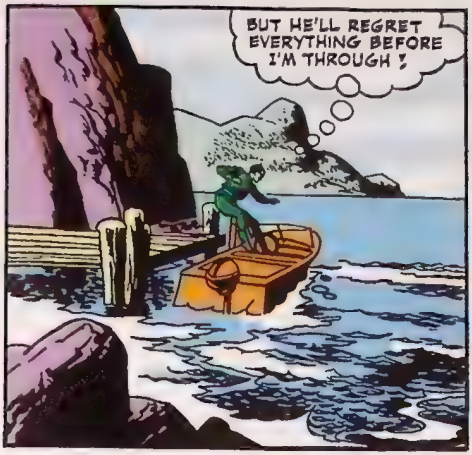
ABOVE GROUND THE WAITING AGENTS MOVE TO ENCIRCLE THE ASSASSINS AND THEIR EVIL LEADERS.

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONE COMPLETELY MAD.... AND THE PIT'S RIGHT BEHIND ME!
GONE! THEY MUST HAVE ESCAPED IN THE IRON MOLE!
LATER AT T.H.U.N.D.E.R HQ....
AT LEAST WE MANAGED TO ROUND UP ALL THE ASSASSINS... BUT I HOPE THE LAB CAN FIX THE BELT SO THEY CAN'T PULL THAT SAME STUNT AGAIN!
IN THE MEANTIME WE CAN'T GUESS WHAT THE WARLORDS ARE PLANNING.
WHATEVER IT IS, WE'RE NARROWING THE ODDS WITH EVERY ENCOUNTER IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME!
END

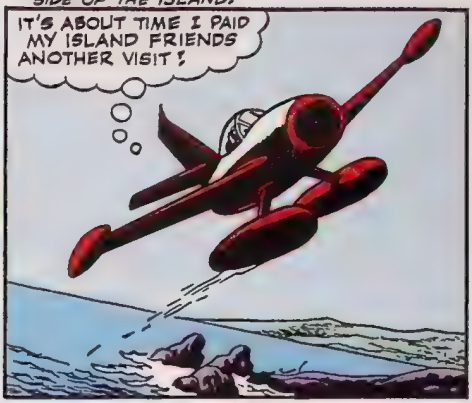
THE THUNDER AGENTS HAD BEEN SURE THEY'D SURROUNDED ALL OF THE WARLORD'S GANG AFTER THE ISLAND CAPTURE...BUT ONE OF THE MOST ELUSIVE HAD ESCAPED UNNOTICED.....
ALRIGHT, DROP IT!
I GUESS THAT'S ALL OF THEM!

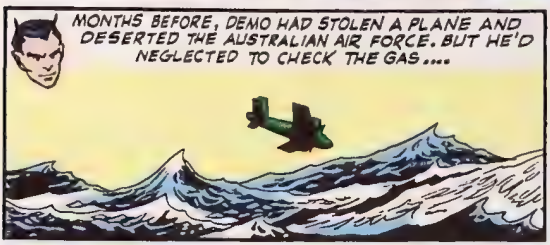
ALL BUT ONE.... **DEMO** MASTER OF THE SUB-MEN!

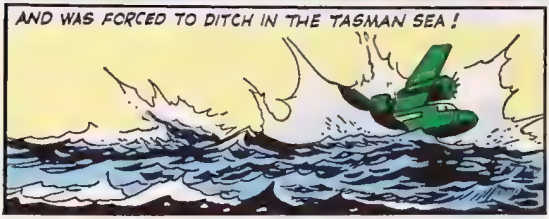




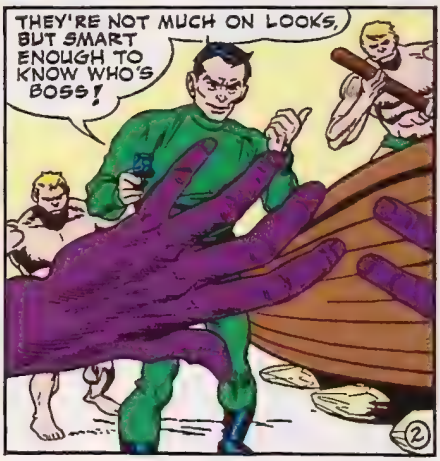
THE WARLORD'S PRIVATE PLANE IS GASSED AND READY AT THE HIDDEN COVE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND.





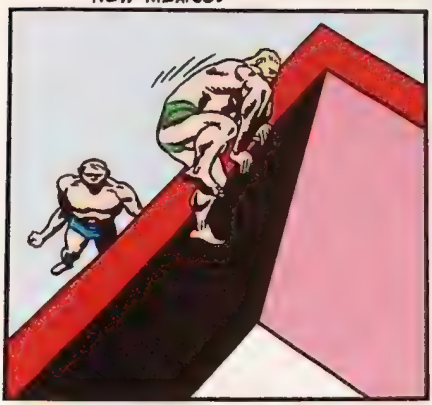


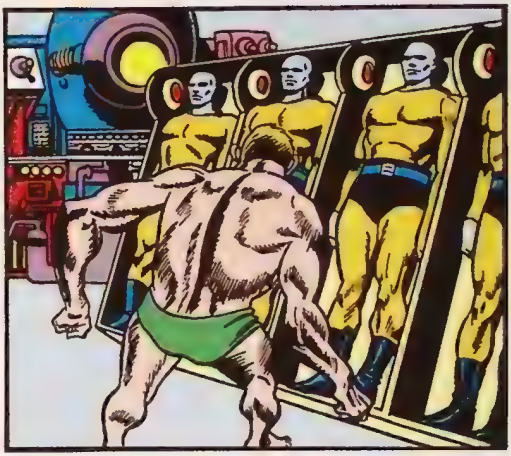
THEY MUST THINK I'M A GOD FROM THE SKY.... WHAT A SET-UP!
BY CHANCE, HE'D COME DOWN NEAR ONE OF THE UNCHARTED KERMADEC ISLANDS....POPULATED SOLELY BY A BARBARIC SUB-BREED OF MAN!

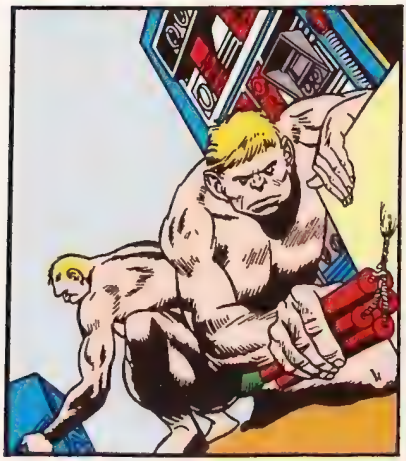


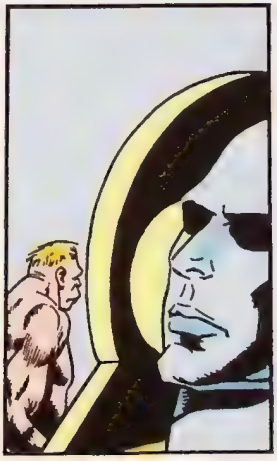
THERE'S THE ISLAND....NOW TO RECRUIT ANOTHER CREW TO HELP ME TAKE CARE OF NOMAN!
WHAT'S THIS? MY GRUESOME PALS DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY TO SEE ME!
MAYBE THEY NEED AN EXAMPLE OF THEIR GOD'S WRATH!
YOU STEAL OUR PEOPLE.... YOU ARE WEAK..... YOU ARE NO GOD AT ALL!
WANT TO BET?! THE PROOF IS SIMPLE ENOUGH... THIS TINY BALL IS HARMLESS IN MY HANDS.....
BUT SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TOUCH IT!
BA-ROOM!!
3

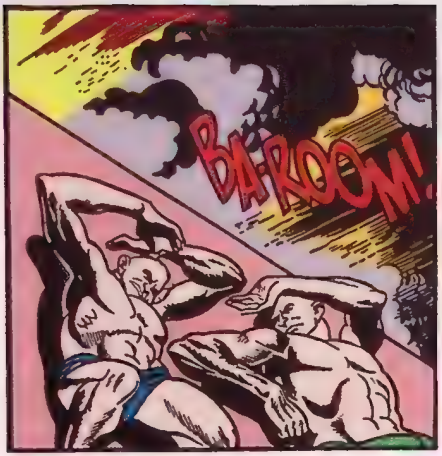
WEEKS LATER, **NOMAN'S** HEADQUARTERS IN AN ISOLATED DESERT VALLEY OF NEW MEXICO.



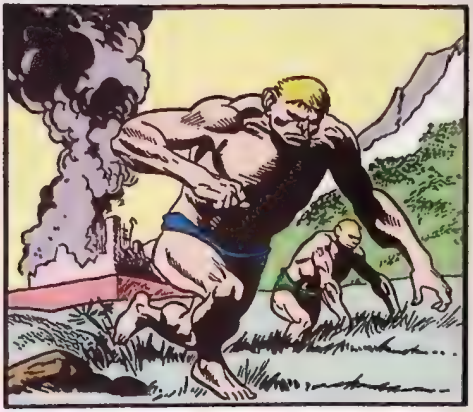






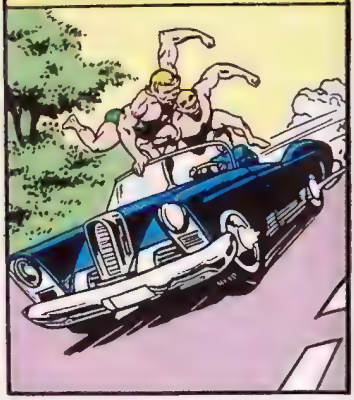


THEIR MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, THE SUB-MEN RACE AWAY FROM THE SMOKING RUINS....

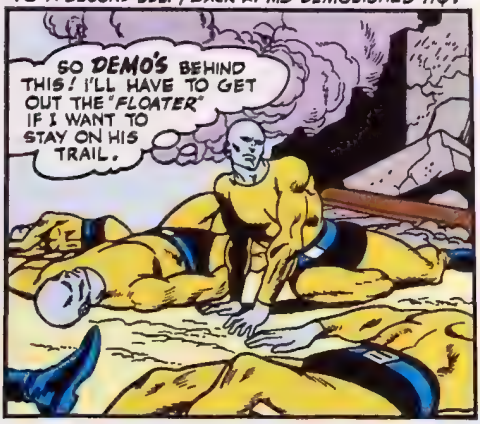


BUT THEY'RE CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY AN UNPERTURBED ANDROID OF.....

SECONDS BEFORE HE CAN REACH THEM, A FAST CAR IS WAITING TO INSURE THEIR ESCAPE.....



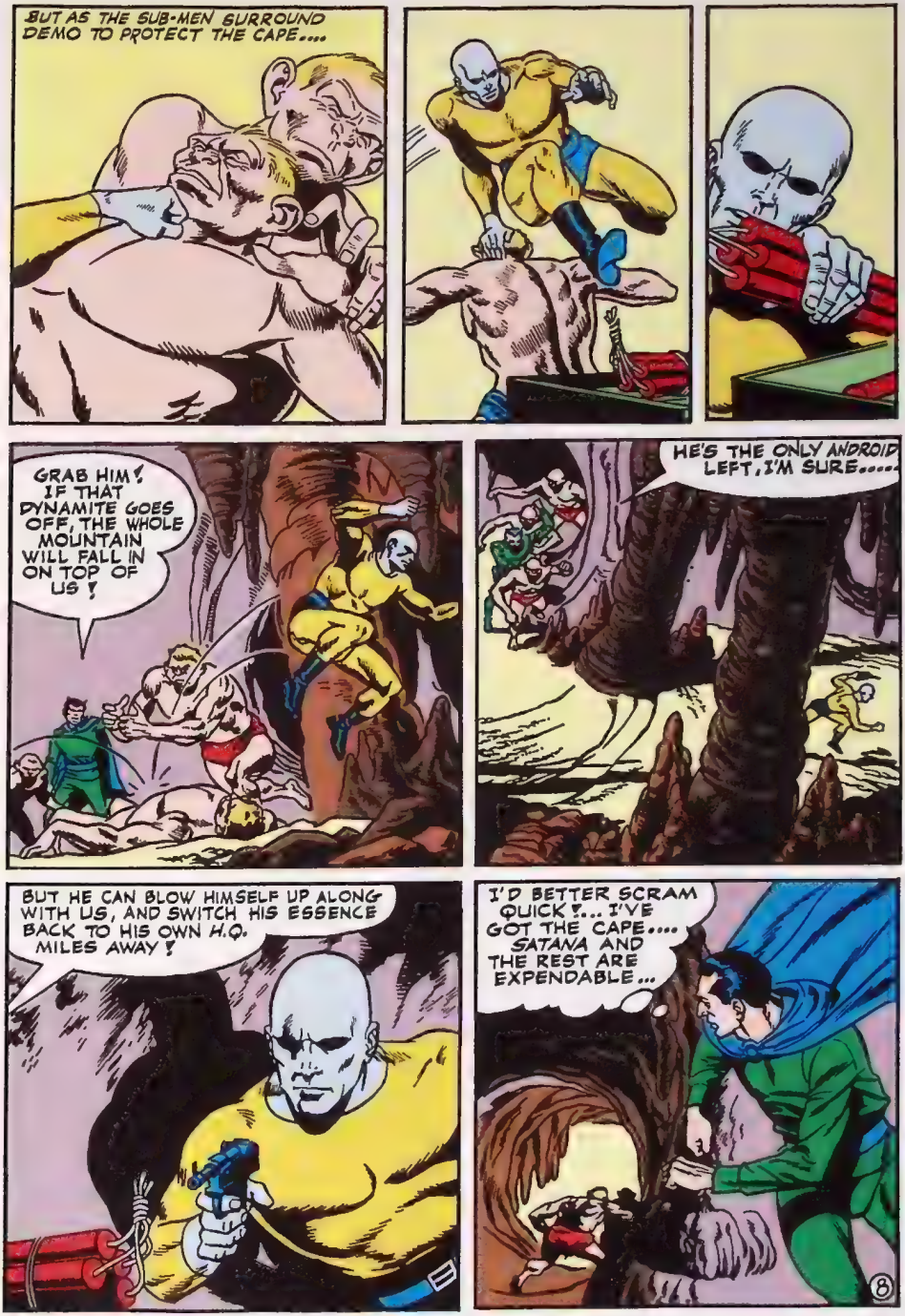
THE UNSEEN AGENT TRANSFERS CONSCIOUSNESS TO A SECOND SELF, BACK AT HIS DEMOLISHED HQ.



... AND WITHIN MINUTES, THE SECOND ANDROID REACHES HIS CLOAKED MINDMATE!

AND THEY FOLLOW THE UNSETTLED DUST ALONG SELDOM-USED MOUNTAIN ROADS....
IT'S BIG.... BUT NO HOLE IS BIG ENOUGH FOR THAT WEASEL TO HIDE IN.... HE'S LONG PAST DUE FOR THE COURTS!
NOTHING ON THIS LEVEL... BUT THAT ROPE LEADS SOMEWHERE... AND JUST IN CASE THERE'S AN OFFICIAL RECEPTIONIST...
...I'LL ENTER INCOGNITO.
BUT EVEN AN INVISIBLE MAN CAN'T STOP A ROPE FROM GIVING AWAY THE SIGNS OF HIS DESCENT...
DEMO! LOOK! BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYONE!
IT MUST BE NOMAN! I'LL ALERT THE GUARD IN THE CAVERNS ABOVE.
THE MESSAGE IS DIRECT, AND IT'S EXECUTION ALMOST IMMEDIATE!
6

WHUMP
IT IS NOMAN! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS, BUT STILL INVISIBLE!
THE CLOAK! SO THAT'S THE SECRET!
BUT AS HE WAS PLUMMETING TO HIS DESTRUCTION, NOMAN RELINQUISHED CONSCIOUSNESS TO HIS BACK-UP ANDROID AT THE CAVE ENTRANCE...
I SUSPECTED THERE WAS A PRIVATE TUNNEL... THE ROPE LADDER WAS A TRAP FOR TRESPASSERS....
WELL, SATANA, WE'RE GOING PLACES NOW! WITH THIS CLOAK I'LL BE INVINCIBLE!
YOU'RE TOO BEAUTIFUL TO HIDE FROM THE WORLD, DEMO.... MAYBE I'D BETTER TAKE BACK MY CAPE!
7


BUT AS THE SUB-MEN SURROUND DEMO TO PROTECT THE CAPE....
GRAB HIM! IF THAT DYNAMITE GOES OFF, THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN WILL FALL IN ON TOP OF US!
HE'S THE ONLY ANDROID LEFT, I'M SURE.....
BUT HE CAN BLOW HIMSELF UP ALONG WITH US, AND SWITCH HIS ESSENCE BACK TO HIS OWN H.Q. MILES AWAY!
I'D BETTER SCRAM QUICK!... I'VE GOT THE CAPE.... SATANA AND THE REST ARE EXPENDABLE...
8

THEY'LL KEEP THAT BLANK-EYED PEST BUSY UNTIL I'M LONG GONE!
WHAT... YOU!
...AS THE IMMOBILE ANDROID SURGES WITH NEW LIFE.....
BAROOM!
THE CAVERNS BELOW COLLAPSE UNDER TONS OF EARTH AND STONE!....
NOW WHERE'D DEMO DISAPPEAR TO?
...I'M RIGHT HERE, YOU SPIRITLESS BLOB OF PLASTIC!
9

YOU'RE A WINNER ON YOUR FIRST GUESS... AS A REWARD, YOU CAN
HE'S BENEATH THE CLOAK!
KA-POW!
JOIN THE OTHERS DOWN-STAIRS!
BUT DEMO HAS UNDERRATED THE STRENGTH OF HIS OPPONENT, AND MAKES THE MISTAKE OF STEPPING TOO CLOSE!
LATER: OKAY... I CAN SEE HOW YOU TRANSFERRED BACK HERE, AND LATER RE-TURNED TO RETRIEVE THE CAPE... YET YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD SENT ONLY TWO ANDROIDS.... IF ONE WAS CRUSHED, AND THE OTHER ONE SET OFF THE BLAST.....
YES.... ONE WAS CRUSHED... BUT A WRIST AND HAND WERE STILL OPERABLE.... ENOUGH AT LEAST TO BLAST THAT DYNAMITE WITH HIS PISTOL WHILE #2 FOLLOWED DEMO TO THE FLOOR ABOVE!
THE END

LIGHTNING

OFFICIAL T.H.U.N.D.E.R. SECRET FILE DOSSIER

NAME Gilbert, Guy AGE 31 WEIGHT: 185

DESCRIPTION HAIR: Black EYES: Blue HEIGHT: 6'1"

SPECIALTY: Electromagnetic suit which maintains speeded up body processes and reflexes.

REMARKS: Gilbert, using the "Lightning" suit is capable of 100 times normal human speed, but each minute of use shortens his life

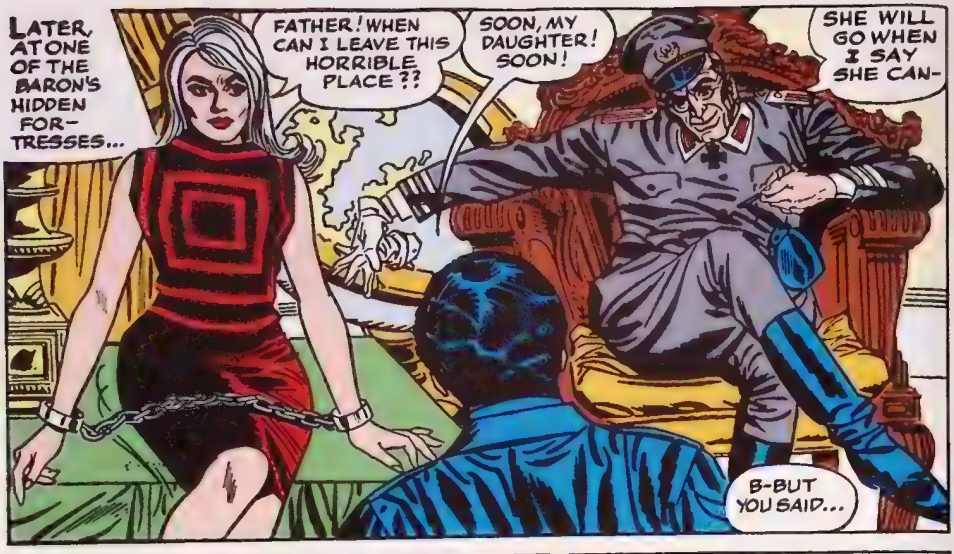
T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENT
LIGHTNING
RETURN of BARON VON KAMPF
THAT, LIGHTNING, IS THE NEW SOLID FUEL THUNDER JET! IT WILL BE FLOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY! THAT IS WHY WE, HERE AT THE TEST CENTER, HAVE REQUESTED YOUR PRESENCE! THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT SOMETHING MAY GO WRONG! WE MAY NEED YOUR POWERS!
I UNDERSTAND - I'LL BE READY FOR ACTION AT ANY MOMENT!
XO1
OUR STORY STARTS AT THE T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AIRCRAFT TEST CENTER, WHERE WE FIND ONE OF T.H.U.N.D.E.R.'S TOP AGENTS - THE NEWEST OF THE LOT, LIGHTNING...
SO FAR SO GOOD! THE TAKE-OFF IS GOING QUITE SMOOTHLY!
BUT, THEN...
HMM... THAT'S STRANGE! THE PLANE IS GOING THROUGH IT'S MANEUVERS VERY SLOWLY-
XO1
1

MEANWHILE, IN THE PLANE ITSELF...
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE'D THIS DUST COME FROM? IT MUST BE THE DEADLY DUST I WAS WARNED ABOUT--BARON VON KAMPF'S WEAPON! I CAN FEEL IT ENTERING MY BLOOD STREAM, CUTTING MY REACTION TIME DOWN!
THE DUST HAS GOTTEN INTO THE MOTOR--IT'S CONKING OUT!
XOI
SPUT-
SPUTTER--
THE JET!! IT'S MOTOR IS DEAD!
THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE TO SAVE IT! WE HAVE TO ACTIVATE THE REMOTE RECHARGER DEVICE!
OH NO! DUST, SURROUNDING THE PANEL MEN! THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ACTIVATE THE JET ENGINE IN TIME!
WHAT CAN WE DO? NOW NO ONE CAN REACH THE DEVICE IN TIME!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO! GET THE PILOT OF THE PLANE!
AND THEN, WITH THE TWIST OF A DIAL...
I'M THE ONE TO DO IT! AND I'D BETTER DO IT NOW-WHILE THE DUST AROUND THE DOOR ISN'T THICK ENOUGH TO SLOW ME DOWN!
WOOOM!
2

THUS, ONE SECOND, THE PLANE IS FALLING - AND NO ONE IS NEAR!
XO1
THE NEXT SECOND, A FIGURE APPEARS NEXT TO THE PLUNGING CRAFT-
XO1
-THE FIGURE OF LIGHTNING, WHOSE SUPER-SPEED HAS PROPELLED HIM INTO THE SKY!
AND THEN, JUST AS QUICKLY AS IT APPEARED, THE FIGURE IS GONE...
XO1
ONLY TO APPEAR AGAIN, LESS THAN A SECOND LATER, CARRYING AN AMAZED PILOT!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
ZIP!
EXCUSE ME! I KEEP FORGETTING THAT MY SPEED INDUCER BEAM INCREASES THE FREQUENCY OF MY VOICE!
AS I WAS SAYING - YOU'RE SAFE NOW!
3

LATER, BACK AT THE TEST CENTER...
I DON'T LIKE THIS! YOU WERE ABLE TO SAVE THE PILOT THIS TIME! BUT WHAT IF THE BARON SHOULD STRIKE AGAIN??
DON'T WORRY, COMMANDER! I'LL BE STICKING AROUND HERE-UNTIL THE BARON IS CAUGHT!
BUT AS FOR NOW, I'D BETTER REPORT INTO HEADQUARTERS! I SHALL RETURN SHORTLY!
I DON'T GET IT! THE COMMANDER IS RIGHTFULLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PILOTS. BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE ABOUT THE PLANES AT ALL!
I THINK I'LL GO BACK IN THERE RIGHT NOW! BUT AT A SPEED IN WHICH I CAN'T BE SEEN!
WHOOOSH!
AND INSIDE - THERE AWAITS A STARTLING REALIZATION!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, BARON!
SO-HE IS HELPING TO SABOTAGE THE PLANES!
BUT THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN JUST THAT-FOR HE'S ALSO TRYING TO SAVE THE PILOTS!

WELL... FOR BETTER OR WORSE, IT HAS BEEN DONE!
IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE AN ACCOMPLICE TO THE BARON'S FIENDISH CRIMES!
YOU MEAN HE'S FORCING YOU TO DO IT?
WHA-? WHO SAID THAT?
IT'S I, LIGHTNING, AND I SUGGEST THAT YOU TELL ME EVERYTHING!
OH, P-PLEASE D-DON'T TURN ME IN! T-THE BARON WILL K-KILL MY D-DAUGHTER IF YOU DO!
YOUR DAUGHTER?
YES, HE HAS HER HELD CAPTIVE!
THEN WE SHALL SAVE HER! — THE TWO OF US — DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
BUT WHY SHOULD YOU WANT TO HELP ME?
BECAUSE BY HELPING YOU I'LL BE DEFEATING A MENACE TO FREEDOM!
NOW, CALL THE BARON, AND TELL HIM YOU MUST SEE HIM IMMEDIATELY!
THIS SHALL BE A PLEASURE! A CHANCE TO SET MY DAUGHTER FREE — AND HELP RECTIFY THE EVIL I HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DO!
5

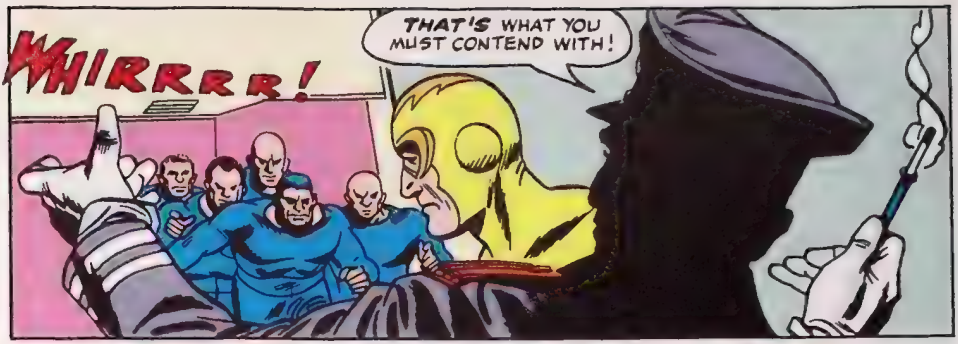

LATER, AT ONE OF THE BARON'S HIDDEN FORTRESSES...
FATHER! WHEN CAN I LEAVE THIS HORRIBLE PLACE??
SOON, MY DAUGHTER! SOON!
SHE WILL GO WHEN I SAY SHE CAN-
B-BUT YOU SAID...

NEVER MIND WHAT I SAID! WHAT I SAY IS THAT SHE WILL NOT GO FREE UNTIL YOU HAVE HELPED ME CONQUER THE ENTIRE WORLD!
SO-THE WORD OF THE GREAT BARON VON KAMPF MEANS NOTHING!

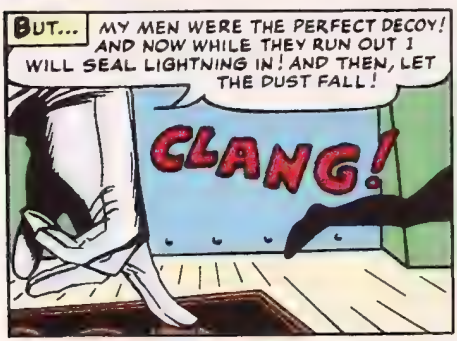
WHAT? WHO SAID THAT? WHO DARES SPEAK THUS TO ME?

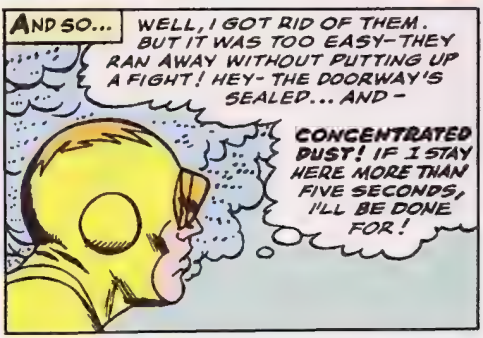
I DO!
AH! IT IS YOU, SWIFT ONE!

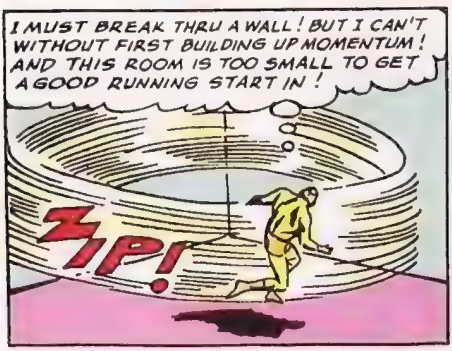
I HAVE BEEN HOPING TO MEET YOU AGAIN- SO THAT I COULD PAY YOU BACK FOR RUINING MY LAST SCHEME!
I HAVE PREPARED WELL FOR THIS ENCOUNTER- AS YOU SOON SHALL SEE!
6

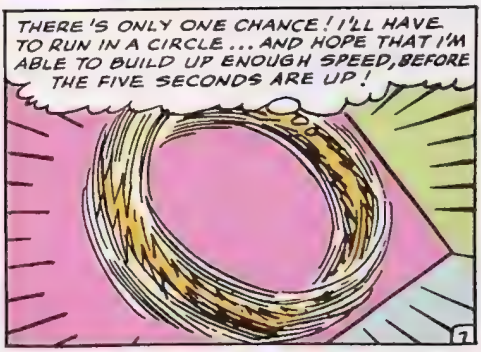

WHIRRRR!
THAT'S WHAT YOU MUST CONTEND WITH!

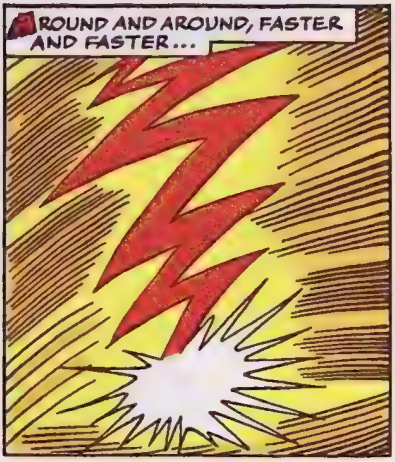
LIGHTNING TWISTS A DIAL AND THEN RUSHES INTO BATTLE, A BLUR OF FIGHTING FURY!
POW!
WHAM!
BAM!
SOK!
POP!

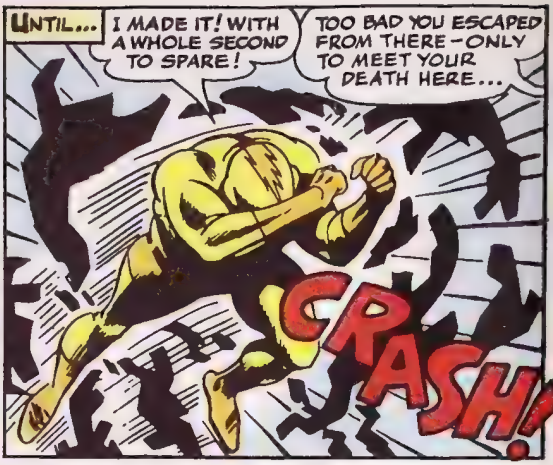

BUT... MY MEN WERE THE PERFECT DECOY! AND NOW WHILE THEY RUN OUT I WILL SEAL LIGHTNING IN! AND THEN, LET THE DUST FALL!
CLANG!


AND SO... WELL, I GOT RID OF THEM. BUT IT WAS TOO EASY—THEY RAN AWAY WITHOUT PUTTING UP A FIGHT! HEY- THE DOORWAY'S SEALED... AND—
CONCENTRATED DUST! IF I STAY HERE MORE THAN FIVE SECONDS, I'LL BE DONE FOR!


I MUST BREAK THRU A WALL! BUT I CAN'T WITHOUT FIRST BUILDING UP MOMENTUM! AND THIS ROOM IS TOO SMALL TO GET A GOOD RUNNING START IN!
ZIP!


THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE! I'LL HAVE TO RUN IN A CIRCLE... AND HOPE THAT I'M ABLE TO BUILD UP ENOUGH SPEED, BEFORE THE FIVE SECONDS ARE UP!
7


ROUND AND AROUND, FASTER AND FASTER...


UNTIL...
I MADE IT! WITH A WHOLE SECOND TO SPARE!
TOO BAD YOU ESCAPED FROM THERE—ONLY TO MEET YOUR DEATH HERE...
CRASH!

...FOR, YOU SEE, THAT OTHER ROOM WAS NOT DESIGNED TO KILL YOU, BUT ONLY TO WEAKEN YOU ENOUGH SO THAT YOU CAN BE KILLED!

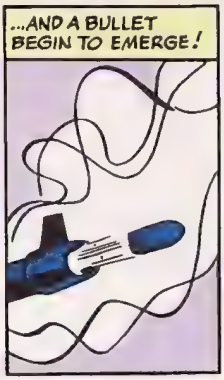
AND NOW THAT YOU'RE SUFFICIENTLY WEAK, WE WILL SHOOT YOU—AND YOUR TWO FRIENDS, WHO DARED DEFY ME!

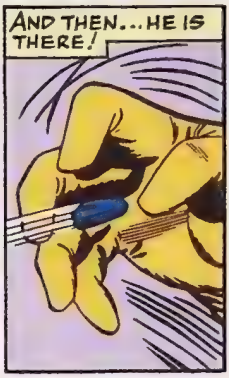
HE'S WRONG, I'M NOT COMPLETELY WEAK—I STILL HAVE SOME SPEED—ENOUGH TO POSSIBLY SAVE BOTH OF YOU!
NEVER MIND ME, LIGHTNING! JUST SAVE MY DAUGHTER!

BANG!
YOU'RE FIRST, FAST MAN!

SWIFTLY, LIGHTNING DUCKS OUT OF HARM'S WAY!
I HAVE TO ACT FAST! THE OTHERS ARE PULLING THE TRIGGERS NOW!
ZING!

AND AS LIGHTNING RUSHES TOWARD THE GUNMEN, HE SEES ONE OF THE GUNS FIRE...
BANG!


...AND A BULLET BEGIN TO EMERGE!


AND THEN... HE IS THERE!

...HIS HAND MOVING MORE SWIFTLY THAN THE BULLET ITSELF!

I'VE STOPPED ONE BULLET!! NOW IF I CAN ONLY GET TO THE OTHER ONE IN TIME!

LIGHTNING MAKES A VALIANT LEAP, BUT EVEN HE CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH!
I CAN'T MAKE IT- AND THAT MEANS THE COMMANDER IS DONE FOR!
BLAM!

UH! I'M HIT!
LIGHTNING'S STILL ALIVE! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE — NOW!
BUT EVEN IN THE THROES OF DEATH, THE COMMANDER GOES ON, RECTIFYING THE WRONG HE HAS DONE!
CRASH!
EEEEEEEAAH!
THIS BUILDING OVER LOOKS A HIGH CLIFF! THEY HAVE SURELY PERISHED!
AND SO ENDS THE CAREER OF BARON VON KAMPF — DESTROYED BY HIS OWN DESIRE TO DESTROY!
10
BUT WHAT OF MY FATHER? M-MY FATHER!
YES, YOU SHOULD GRIEVE. BUT ALSO REMEMBER THAT HE GAVE HIS LIFE IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOU AND THE PEACE OF THE WORLD!
The End

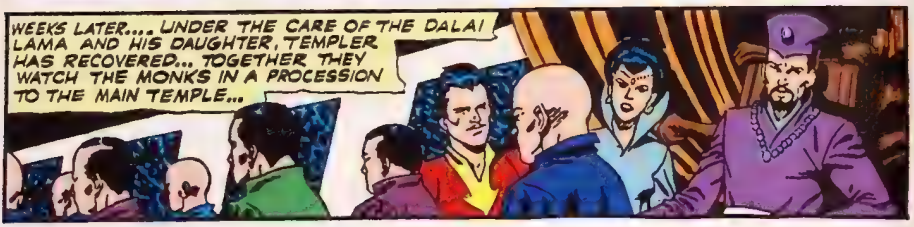
MENTHOR, TOP AGENT OF T.H.U.N.D.E.R., HAS HELD THE MONOPOLY ON MIND OVER MATTER THROUGH THE POWER OF HIS HELMET.... BUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A CRIMINAL MIND POSSESSED EQUAL POWER TO CONTROL AND INFLUENCE OTHERS? WITH THE RED RUBY OF TIBET, VARGAS TEMPLER BECOMES THE FREE WORLD'S MOST FORMIDABLE OPPONENT AS....

MENTHOR vs. the ENTRANCER

NIGHT. IT'S SNOWING STEADILY IN THE MOUNTAINS OF TIBET. TWO YAK HERDERS MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE SNOW DRIFTS ALONG THE ROCKY TRAIL....

THEN STOP IN ALARM AS A DARK FORM FALLS FROM THE BLUFF ABOVE!

AFTER MANY HOURS THE MEN REACH THE BASE OF A TALL CLIFF....


WEEKS LATER.... UNDER THE CARE OF THE DALAI LAMA AND HIS DAUGHTER, TEMPLER HAS RECOVERED... TOGETHER THEY WATCH THE MONKS IN A PROCESSION TO THE MAIN TEMPLE...

ALTHOUGH IT'S AGAINST THE STRICTEST RULE, DANARA HAS FALLEN FOR THE STRANGER.... AND READILY SHOWS HIM TO THE CHAMBER WHERE HER FATHER IS BEGINNING THE ANCIENT INVOCATION!

CHILDREN OF THE GAUTAMA, KNEEL AND BE BLESSED BY THE MIRACLE OF THE SACRED RED RUBY!
SUDDENLY MUSIC FILLS THE ROOM... AND THE STATUE SEEMINGLY COMES TO LIFE, AS THE ROOM ERUPTS IN A VISION OF BEAUTY!
A MAGIC JEWEL! IT'S WORTH MORE THAN THE WHOLE PALACE!
THANKS FOR PATCHIN' ME UP, POPS!...
MAYBE I'LL VISIT AGAIN SOMETIME...
AFTER HIS SAFE ESCAPE, TEMPLER CONSIDERS HIS PRIZE...
WITH THIS RUBY, I CAN PRODUCE ANY IMAGE I WISH! I'LL CALL MYSELF THE 'ENTRANCER' AND HELP MYSELF TO EVERYTHING I'VE EVER WANTED!
WEEKS LATER...
THIS WILL BE THE TEST... THOSE CASES CONTAIN MILLIONS IN PAY-ROLL CASH!
MY GOD! WHAT IS IT?!
NRRRRGH!
IT WAS ALMOST TOO SIMPLE.... I'M A MILLIONAIRE....

THE RED RUBY OF TIBET TRANSFORMS THE MENTAL IMAGES OF ITS POSSESSOR INTO LIFELIKE VISIONS!

THE VILLAIN CHOOSES A SMALL BUT WEALTHY ASIAN NATION.... AND WASTES NO TIME!

BUT THE GUARDS STOP IN TERROR AS THE ENTRANCER CHANGES FORM BEFORE THEIR EYES!

HAVING MADE HIS POINT, THE SELF-APPOINTED MONARCH PUTS AWAY THE RUBY...

WITHIN HOURS, T.H.U.N.D.E.R. IS ALERTED...

THIS CHARACTER CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND MADE AN ALMOST ONE-MAN COUP. IT'S A SMALL COUNTRY, BUT IT'S A MEMBER OF THE U.N., AND THE GOVT. IN EXILE HAS DEMANDED HELP, IN GETTING HIM OUT!

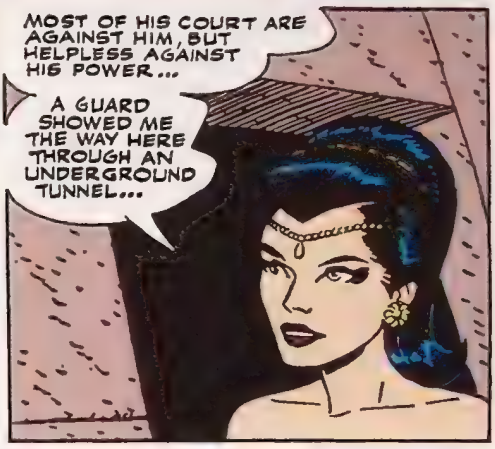
MENTHOR SPEEDS TO RHUTAN IN HIS MASER-POWERED MISSILE PLANE!
THE 'ENTRANCER' WILL WISH I WAS A HALLUCINATION BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH HIM!
THEY'VE ACCEPTED HIS AUTHORITY... BUT I CANT BLAME THEM....
THE MIND CAN BE FROZEN IN FEAR IF YOU KNOW THE TRICK....
STAND ASIDE!
BUT LET'S SEE HOW HIS TRICKS WORK AGAINST THE PSI POWERS OF MY HELMET!
THOSE ARE INTERESTING NIGHTMARES, PAL, BUT KEEP THEM TO YOURSELF!
HE'S RESISTING THE RUBY!
BUT MENTHOR IS DISTRACTED BY AN ATTACK FROM BEHIND!
THE WRESTLERS!
HE'S RE-LEASED ME! NOW'S MY CHANCE!

HIS MIND FREE THE ENTRANCER ENVISIONS A FEROCIOUS PACK OF WOLF-BEASTS, AND THEY LEAP AT THE THROAT OF MENTHOR!
THIS CAN'T BE REAL!... OR IS IT?!
TOO LATE! MENTHOR IS CAUGHT IN THE ENTRANCER'S FANTASY!...
WHERE AM I...A DUNGEON! THAT STONE IS MORE POTENT THAN I'D SUSPECTED.... AND THEY TOOK MY HELMET!
HE'S NO FOOL... PROBABLY REALIZES THAT'S THE SOURCE OF MY POWER...

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO USE MY IMAGINATION TO GET OUT OF HERE!

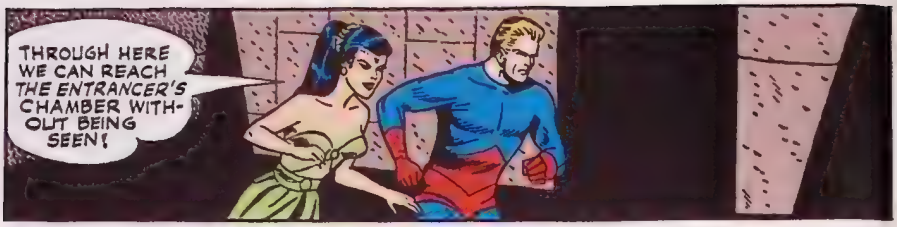
WHA-! A GIRL!

EXCUSE ME FOR BEING ROUGH BUT I'M STARTLED EASILY BY UNEXPECTED VISITORS... AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
I'M DANARA.... DAUGHTER OF THE LAMA WHO THE ENTRANCER KILLED TO STEAL THE RUBY.


MOST OF HIS COURT ARE AGAINST HIM, BUT HELPLESS AGAINST HIS POWER...
A GUARD SHOWED ME THE WAY HERE THROUGH AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL...

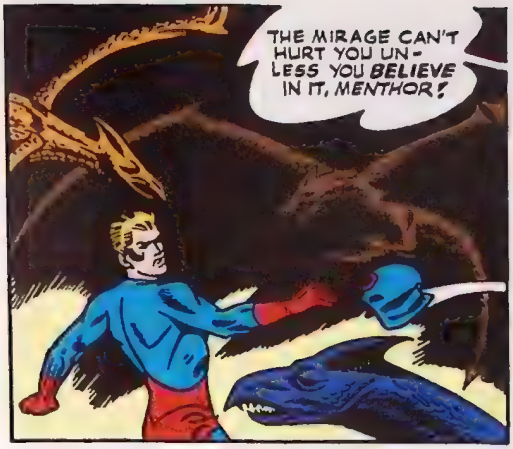
YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE, MENTHOR!
I CAN DO VERY LITTLE UNTIL I RETRIEVE MY HELMET!

THEN WE'LL GET IT! THIS WAY.... QUICKLY!



THE GIRL GUIDES MENTHOR SWIFTLY ALONG THE SHADOWY PASSAGEWAYS... THEN OUT THROUGH ANOTHER HIDDEN PORTAL...

AS THE ENTRANCER SPINS AROUND TO DIRECT THE GEM AGAINST MENTHOR...


THE MIRAGE CAN'T HURT YOU UNLESS YOU BELIEVE IN IT, MENTHOR!

THE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM DANARA SUSTAINS HIS BALANCE UNTIL THE HELMET IS IN PLACE!

QUAINT DREAMS YOU HAVE, MUDDLEHEAD.. BUT WOULDN'T YOU RATHER THINK ABOUT BUTTERFLIES?

THE TWO MEN STRUGGLE IN A BATTLE OF WILL...
PRETTY CLEVER!
BUT WHERE DO YOU AIM YOUR THOUGHTS NOW?!

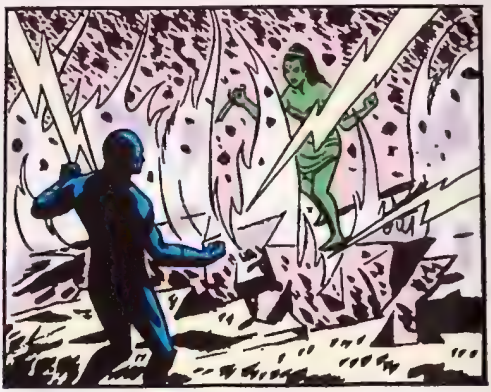
OR NOW!

MENTHOR IS SURROUNDED BY THE PHANTOMS OF AN EVIL BRAIN!

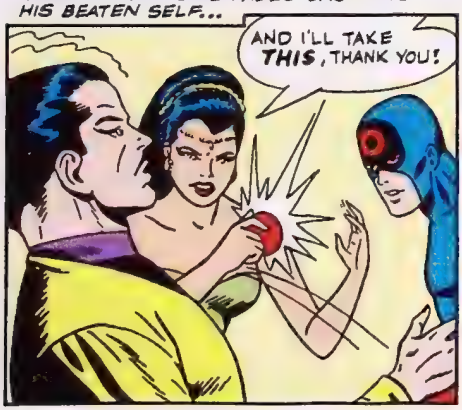
BUT THE REAL DANARA'S VOICE CUTS THROUGH THE ILLUSION...

MENTHOR FOCUSES FULL POWER AGAINST THE SLENDER FIGURE OF THE GIRL!

HIS ADVERSARY DESPERATELY ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT THE INTENSITY OF MENTHOR'S CONCENTRATION!.....



BUT HIS OWN POWER WANES AND THE IMAGE OF THE GIRL FADES BACK INTO HIS BEATEN SELF...



YES, DANARA .... TAKE THE RUBY BACK WHERE IT BELONGS... TO YOUR TIBETEN TEMPLES... AND MAY YOUR GOOD MONKS GUARD IT WELL AGAINST MEN LIKE THE ENTRANCER!
END.

T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS
"DOUBLE FOR DYNAMO"
WHEN NOMAN FOUND THAT T.H.U.N.D.E.R. HAD BEEN INFILTRATED BY ANDROID "STAND-INS" CONTROLLED BY AN EVIL GENIUS WHO CALLED HIMSELF THE "MASTERMIND", AN URGENT CHECK ON PERSONNEL WAS BEGUN...

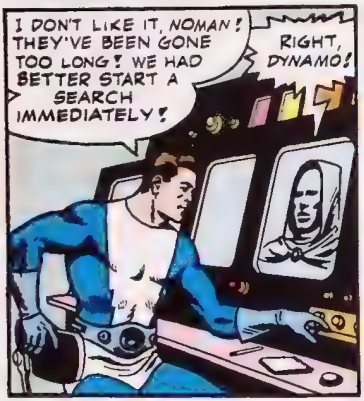
ALTHOUGH THE ANDROIDS ARE IDENTICAL TO THEIR HUMAN COUNTERPARTS, X-RAYS CAN DETECT SUBTLE MOLECULAR IRREGULARITIES...
OKAY, DYNAMO... YOU'RE CHECKED OUT...YOU MAY GO NOW!
THANKS... I'M GLAD TO FIND OUT I'M REALLY ME!
YOU PEOPLE ARE FREE TO GO NOW... THE WHOLE SQUAD IS CLEARED!
WHEW! THAT'S A RELIEF!
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, DOCTOR?
NO DOUBT THERE'LL BE A CHECK ON ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS... NO TELLING WHO MIGHT BE AN ANDROID...
LET'S GO, KITTEN! WE'RE TO REPORT TO THE COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY!
...WE'RE TIGHTENING SECURITY FOR THE DURATION OF THIS CRISIS....
YOU WILL ALL BE CHECKED EVERY DAY BEFORE COMING ON DUTY!
'WEED' LEAVES IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING, UNAWARE OF SINISTER EYES WATCHING.....
IT'S EARLY... GUESS I'LL WALK HOME...
THERE HE IS!
YES... THE AGENT CALLED, 'WEED'....
2

THE UNCONSCIOUS 'WEED' IS DUMPED INTO A WAITING TRUCK NEXT TO AN ANDROID.....

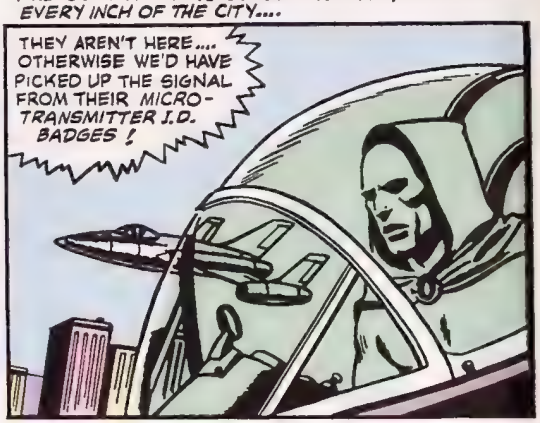
... AN ANDROID WHICH BEARS A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO 'WEED' HIMSELF!

SHORTLY, AT T.H.U.N.D.E.R. HQ....

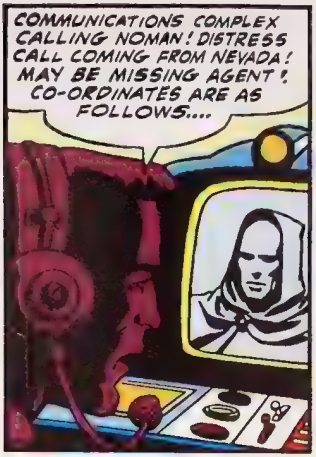
BACK AT T.H.U.N.D.E.R. HQ, DYNAMO BECOMES WORRIED...

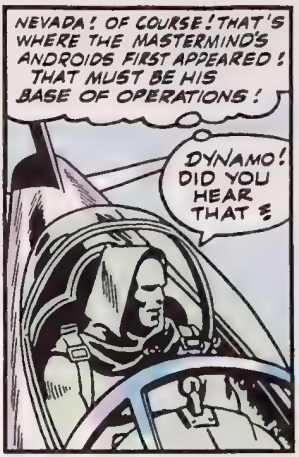


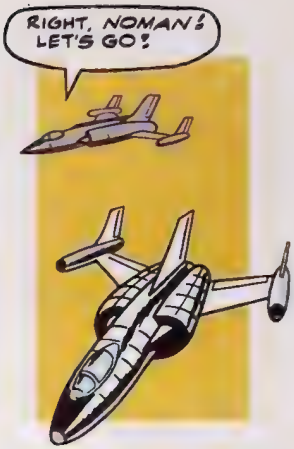
AND SOON TWO JETS SWEEP OVERHEAD, COVERING EVERY INCH OF THE CITY....

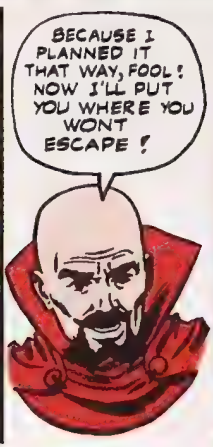


FAR FROM NEW YORK, WE FIND WEED A CAPTIVE....

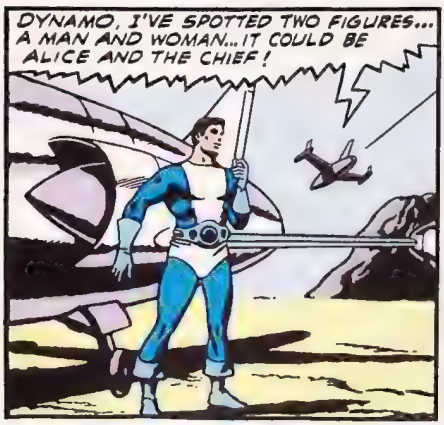

COMMUNICATIONS COMPLEX CALLING NOMAN! DISTRESS CALL COMING FROM NEVADA! MAY BE MISSING AGENT! CO-ORDINATES ARE AS FOLLOWS....


NEVADA! OF COURSE! THAT'S WHERE THE MASTERMIND'S ANDROIDS FIRST APPEARED! THAT MUST BE HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS!
DYNAMO! DID YOU HEAR THAT?





NEARBY, AN INTENSIVE SEARCH BEGINS....



RACING TO THE SCENE, DYNAMO FINDS....

BUT... I DON'T GET IT! THEY'RE JUST STANDING THERE... JUST AS IF...
IT'S A TRAP!
MUST ACTIVATE THE THUNDERBELT!
NOW TO GET OUT OF... WHAT'S THAT?
GAS! EVEN WITH THE BELT ON...
...I CAN'T WITHSTAND...
...EFFECTS OF.... GAS...
HA! SO THIS IS THE GREAT DYNAMO!
THOSE ANDROIDS OF HIS FRIENDS SURE FOOLED HIM!
NOW TO GET HIM TO THE MESA BASE...
YEAH - AND QUICKLY BEFORE HE RECOVERS!
6

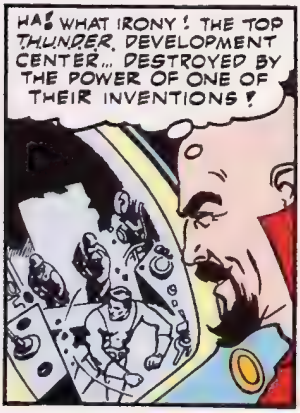
WHILE ABOVE, NOMAN HAS OBSERVED THE FATE OF HIS FELLOW AGENT....
I KNOW AN ANDROID WHEN I SEE ONE.... I'VE BEEN A DOZEN MYSELF!
SO YOU WANT TO PLAY, SATCHEL PUSS!
... BUT WHY ARE THEY STILL HERE? IT'S AS IF THEY WERE WAITING FOR SOMETHING....
.... OF COURSE! THEY WERE BOOBY TRAPPED! MUST SWITCH...
.... TO ANOTHER BODY! I'M RECKLESS SINCE I'VE BECOME IMMORTAL! I CAN RETRIEVE THE CAPE, BUT HOW DO I PICK UP DYNAMO'S TRAIL NOW...?
MEANWHILE, DYNAMO'S CAPTORS ARRIVE AT THEIR DESTINATION.....
THERE'S THE MESA NOW!
REMOVE HIS BELT, YOU FOOL! IT IS THE SOURCE OF HIS POWER! WITHOUT IT HE IS NO THREAT TO US!
7

LATER...
I'M ALMOST FINISHED! I'VE MANAGED TO OUTDO MYSELF WITH THIS EFFORT!
BEHOLD! A PERFECT REPLICA...EVEN TO METABOLISM AND NEUROLOGICAL PATTERNS! SO PERFECT INDEED, THAT WHEN I ACTIVATE HIM....
...HE WILL BE ABLE TO WEAR AND USE THE THUNDERBELT!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, YOU MANIAC!
THERE! IT IS DONE! NOW GO....
SOON, AT THE NEVADA PROJECT...
HOLD IT, MEN! IT'S AN AGENT OF THUNDER...
HE'S CLEARED TO ENTER....
IT'S DYNAMO! HEY— WHAT'S UP? HE'S ACTING A LITTLE FUNNY....
.... HE DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO SEE US!
DYNAMO! I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT....
NOMAN! LOOK OUT! IT'S NOT DYNAMO! I CAN'T READ HIS MIND!
6

IT'S AN ANDROID! STAND BACK!!
I'LL TRY TO BLOCK HIM WITH MENTAL FORCE!
IT'S NO USE! HE.... UNHH!!
LIKE A MINDLESS ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION, THE DYNAMO ANDROID SMASHES THROUGH THE DEFENSES TO THE NERVE CENTER OF THE INSTALLATION!
... AS, MILES AWAY....
HA! IF THE MASTERMIND SAW ME NOW HE'D BLOW HIS COOL!
WEED! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM!?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE..... FAST!
BUT.... SHOULDN'T WE TRY TO CAPTURE THE MASTERMIND?
DON'T BE A SAP, PAL! WE WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST HIS ANDROIDS.....
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE PROJECT! THE ANDROID MUST BE THERE NOW!
BUT WHAT CAN I DO AGAINST AN ANDROID WITH THE BELT.... 9

AS THE ANDROID LEAVES A TRAIL OF DEVASTATION IN HIS WAKE.....

A GLEEFUL MASTERMIND WATCHES ON HIS SCREEN.....



...DYNAMO AND WEED RACE AGAINST TIME....

AND MENTHOR RECOVERS CONSCIOUSNESS....

KEEP HIM BUSY, NOMAN! GOT TO STALL FOR TIME....
STAY BACK! I CAN AFFORD TO TAKE A CHANCE...YOU CAN'T!
MENTHOR AND NOMAN TRY DESPERATELY TO KEEP THE FORMIDABLE JUGGERNAUT ENGAGED....
....IT'S NO USE...!
HERE GOES ANOTHER BODY! I'LL HAVE TO TRANSFER...
AT THAT MOMENT WEED AND DYNAMO BURST HEADLONG INTO THE ROOM....
NOW WHAT? HERE I.... AM.....
.... FACE TO FACE WITH MYSELF!
LOOK OUT, YOU FOOL!
TOO LATE! I — UNGG!!
HE GOT THE FULL FORCE OF THAT ONE — POOR GUY!
11

THIS THING IS OBEYING THE MENTAL COMMANDS OF THE MASTERMIND....I CAN'T BREAK THROUGH THAT....BUT...
...HE MUST SOMEHOW BE TRANSMITTING THE SCENE BACK BY VIDEO! IF I CAN SET UP INTERFERENCE IN THE MOLECULES OF THE AIR AROUND HIM....
... AND AS THE MASTERMIND WATCHES HIS SCREEN....
NOW... GET MENTHOR! SMASH HIM!
... MENTHOR'S SCHEME TAKES EFFECT!
WHAT...?!
HOW CAN I DIRECT IF I CAN'T SEE?
... GOT TO GET HIM BACK! RETURN! RETURN TO BASE... AT ONCE....
ANXIOUS MINUTES GO BY FOR THE CRIMINAL GENIUS... THEN AN HOUR... AND FINALLY....
THERE HE IS! NOW I MUST INSTALL A DEFENSE AGAINST THIS SORT OF JAMMING!
INTO THE LAB...QUICKLY!
12

YES.... MASTER...
...LET ME SEE... A TRANSISTORIZED AMP—
WHAT?! YES...MASTER?! WHERE DID YOU... YOU'RE THE REAL DYNAMO!!
THAT'S RIGHT! THE LAUGH'S ON YOU McGURGLE!
ANDROIDS! AN— WHUF!!
STOP HIM! HE'S WRECKING THE CONTROLS!
HE HAS ONLY HUMAN POWER! SHOOT HIM!
SHOOT HIM! SMASH HIM! KILL—
TSK! TSK! YOUR MOTHER WOULDN'T LIKE TO HEAR THAT KIND OF TALK!
I CAN USE THAT GUN....
I HOPE I HIT THE RIGHT GADGET TO CANCEL THESE CLOWNS.... BEFORE THEY CANCEL ME!
IT WORKED! THEY'VE SUDDENLY GONE BLANK!
SCREE
SCREE
13

FREE OF THE MASTERMIND'S MECHANICALLY AMPLIFIED MENTAL CONTROL, THE ANDROIDS BEGIN TO WALK AIMLESSLY...
...AND SINCE THEY ARE ON A MESA, THEIR PATH ON EVERY SIDE LEADS TO A SHEER PRECIPICE!!
AS HIS INHUMAN ARMY DISAPPEARS OVER THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF, THE EVIL GENIUS COLLAPSES....
STOP!
SCREE
STOP! COME BACK!
NO! STOP! COME BACK! I NEED YOU!!
SCREE
LOOK AT THAT! IT SEEMS THAT DYNAMO'S SUCCEEDED!
SCREE
SCREE
WELL, THAT'S THE END OF THIS THREAT! THAT WAS A GREAT IDEA..... TO POSE AS THE FAKE DYNAMO TO GAIN ENTRY TO HIS HIDEOUT!
YEAH... I'D HAVE FELT A BIT BETTER IF THE BELT HAD A COUPLE OF MINUTES OF POWER LEFT IN IT! BUT FORTUNATELY, THEY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE TIME LIMIT...
...SO HE TURNED IT ON BEFORE THE ANDROID LEFT FOR THE BASE, WASTING MOST OF THE POWER BEFORE HE EVEN GOT INTO ACTION!
OTHERWISE I'D BE DEAD NOW...THAT LAST PUNCH LANDED SOLIDLY ENOUGH BUT....
BUT THE TIME HAD JUST RUN OUT! YOU MAY NOT BE SMART, LEN... BUT YOU'RE SURE LUCKY!
DON'T MISS THE NEXT UNUSUAL ADVENTURE OF THE THUNDER AGENTS!

THE HIGHER UNITED NATIONS DEFENSE ENFORCEMENT RESERVES
T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
25¢
JULY
No. 6
PDC
THUNDER FACES ITS GREATEST PERIL WHEN DEMO CAPTURES NOMAN'S CAPE, DYNAMO'S THUNDERBELT AND MENTHOR'S HELMET !! WILL HE SUCCEED IN DESTROYING THUNDER?
LOOK! IT'S DEMO!
WOOD

DYNAMO
AND THE SINISTER AGENTS OF THE
RED STAR!

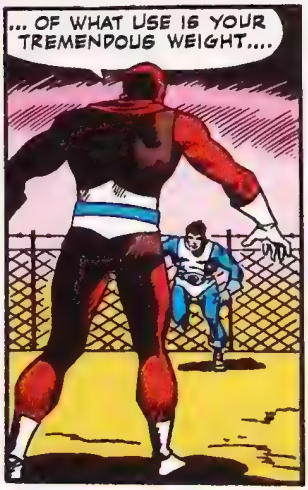
UH... MAY I SEE YOU HOME, ALICE?
OF COURSE, LEN!
I WISH I COULD TELL HER HOW I FEEL... BUT SHE MIGHT JUST LAUGH!
OH, LEN! WHY ARE YOU SO COLD..... OR ARE YOU JUST SHY?
WELL, ER, GOODNIGHT ALICE.
GOOD NIGHT, MR. BROWN... YOU'D BETTER HURRY. YOUR CAB IS WAITING!
THERE GOES MY RING ALARM! OH RATS! I'M NEVER THROUGH ON THIS JOB!
BZZZ
THIS IS BROWN... GO AHEAD...
PROCEED TO THE B.N.F. DEVELOPMENT. SABOTAGE! URGENT! THAT IS ALL!
I'LL MAKE IT FASTER ON FOOT!
HEY! HOW ABOUT A TIP....?
B.N.F.!....THAT'S TOP SECRET.....
... MUST BE ENEMY AGENTS! AND THERE THEY ARE!
THAT GUY IN THE FOREGROUND SEEMS TO BE THE LEADER! IF I GET HIM....
2

I MAY AS WELL MAKE MY PRESENCE KNOWN! A TWIST OF THE DIAL AND....
AIEE!! IT IS A DEMON!
FUNNY... YOU'D THINK THEY'D NEVER SEEN A THUNDERBELT BEFORE!

YOU'LL FIND I DO NOT SCARE SO EASILY, DYNAMO! I AM THE WORLD'S FOREMOST PRACTITIONER OF JIU-JITSU, JUDO AND KARATE!

MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, BUT JUDO WON'T WORK AGAINST MY STRENGTH AND WEIGHT!
YOU THINK NOT EH'?

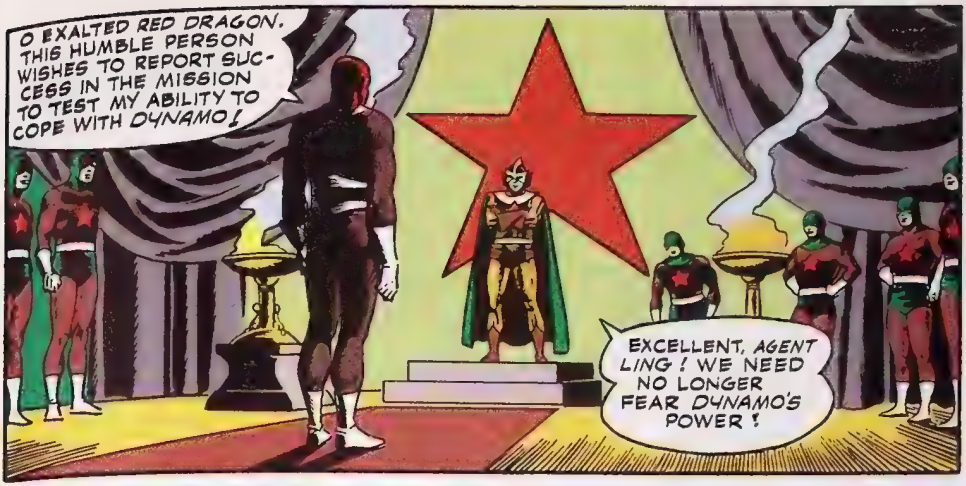
WHAT GOOD IS YOUR GREAT STRENGTH WHEN IT IS USED AGAINST YOU?
HEY...! WHAT THE..


... OF WHAT USE IS YOUR TREMENDOUS WEIGHT....

...WHEN YOU PROVIDE THE LIFTING POWER YOURSELF?!

WHOOSH! HE'S RIGHT! HE COULD KEEP THIS UP UNTIL MY POWER RUNS OUT!
HEY— WHERE DID HE GO...?
THERE HE GOES...IN THAT ELEVATOR...
....BUT WHY? WHERE DOES HE THINK THAT WILL GET HIM?
OH.... A HELICOPTER!
BUT THEY WONT GET AWAY IN IT...
... IF I HAVE ANY SAY IN THE MATTER!
FOOL! YOU WILL HAVE TO GET PAST ME TO STOP THEM! GO BACK!
NOT ON YOUR LIFE, BUNKY!
OOPS! MAYBE I SHOULD'VE LISTENED!
4

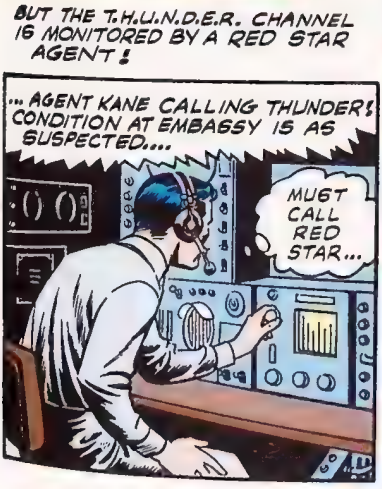
WELL, AT LEAST I STOPPED THEM FROM DOING TOO MUCH DAMAGE!
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M NOT DOING THOSE GIRDERS MUCH GOOD MYSELF!
SPLAT!
CEMENT
WHEN T.H.U.N.D.E.R. FORCES ARRIVE ON THE SCENE....
WE'RE TOO LATE.... THEY GOT AWAY!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO....
...DYNAMO! HOW'D YOU GET IN THERE?
UH... LET'S JUST FORGET IT, HUH?
AT THIS MOMENT, WE SWITCH TO THE EMBASSY OF A SUPPOSEDLY "UNCOMMITTED" NATION.....
THIS EMBASSY MAKES A GREAT FACADE FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE RED STAR SPY NETWORK!
YES, IT DOES... I SHALL INFORM THE RED DRAGON OF YOUR ARRIVAL...


O EXALTED RED DRAGON. THIS HUMBLE PERSON WISHES TO REPORT SUCCESS IN THE MISSION TO TEST MY ABILITY TO COPE WITH DYNAMO!
EXCELLENT, AGENT LING! WE NEED NO LONGER FEAR DYNAMO'S POWER!

YOU WILL BE PRESENT ON ALL FUTURE MISSIONS OF SABOTAGE AND THEFT TO GUARD AGAINST THE INTERVENTION OF THUNDER!

IN AN ADJOINING BUILDING, KITTEN KANE, OPERATES A 'SNOOPERSCOPE'....
NOW WE CAN GET TO WORK! WE WILL BRING THE U.S. TO ITS KNEES!
WOW!

THIS IS BIGGER THAN WE THOUGHT! T.H.U.N.D.E.R.'S SUSPICIONS OF THIS EMBASSY ARE CONFIRMED--- IN SPADES! BETTER RADIO H.Q. PRONTO!


BUT THE T.H.U.N.D.E.R. CHANNEL 16 MONITORED BY A RED STAR AGENT!
...AGENT KANE CALLING THUNDER! CONDITION AT EMBASSY IS AS SUSPECTED....
MUST CALL RED STAR...

ALRIGHT, YOU LITTLE SPY! TURN THAT RADIO OFF AND RAISE YOUR HANDS.... SLOWLY!
6

SOON, A VITAL AMERICAN POLARIS SUB BASE IS ATTACKED BY AN ARMED SQUAD OF RED STAR AGENTS USING NERVE GAS....
THE ATTACKERS QUICKLY REACH THEIR GOAL, A NUCLEAR POWERED POLARIS SUBMARINE.....
GET ON BOARD, YOUNG LADY... YOU MAY BE USEFUL AS A HOSTAGE...
NAVAL INTELLIGENCE CALLING T.H.U.N.D.E.R. EMERGENCY AT NORWALK SUB BASE! SUSPECT ENEMY ACTION. REQUEST YOUR AID!
ROGER! WILL DISPATCH TOP AGENT IMMEDIATELY!
AND DYNAMO IS RUSHED TO THE SEARCH AREA....
THE SONAR BOYS ARE PROBING FOR 'EM NOW DYNAMO... WE CAN STILL HOPE!
THE REDS, NOW SEVERAL MILES OUT TO SEA, HAVE CUT THE ENGINES TO AVOID THE SONAR.
WHEN THEY PASS OVER THE AREA, WE CAN START AGAIN, AND OUTRUN THEM.
THERE'S ONE CHANCE TO TIP THEIR HAND...
HOPE THE SONAR CAN PICK THIS UP... IF ONLY THEY DON'T SPOT ME!
TAP TAP
7

"...WE'RE PICKING UP A TAPPING SOUND, SIR! AND IT'S A CODE MESSAGE "S.O.S. FROM T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENT KANE!"
THEY'VE GOT KITTEN HOSTAGE ABOARD!
WE KNOW THEIR POSITION NOW, BUT WE CAN'T SINK THEM WITH THE GIRL ABOARD... BESIDES, WE'D LIKE THE SUB BACK IN ONE PIECE!
LEAVE IT TO ME....I'LL BE A HUMAN TORPEDO AND STOP THE SUB WITHOUT WRECKING IT!
8

RIGHT ON TARGET! NOW TO DISABLE IT WITHOUT A DISASTER...
THIS SHOULD DO IT....
... THEY WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE FOR A WHILE!
LISTEN...! WHAT'S THAT VIBRATION ??
I BELIEVE WE'VE LOST A PROPELLER EXCELLENCY!
MY MESSAGE GOT THROUGH! IT MUST BE DYNAMO!
WE MUST SURFACE FOR REPAIRS... THEY WILL NOT FIRE ON US FOR FEAR OF KILLING THE GIRL!
AAIIEE!! IT IS THE ACCURSED THUNDER DEMON AGAIN!
EVERY KNOCK IS A BOOST FROM THE LIKES OF YOU!
9

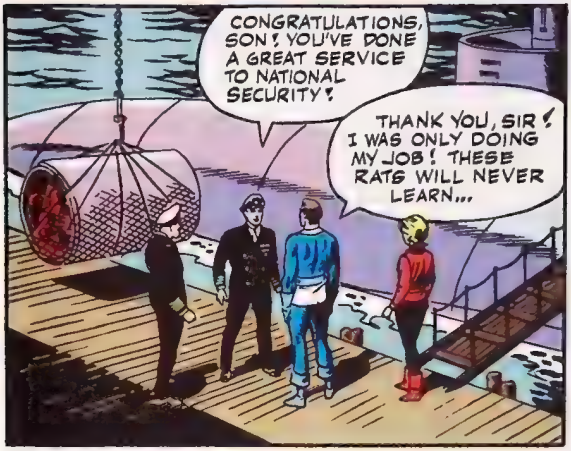
A STRIKE ON MY FIRST TRY!
AS THEY SAY IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS... DOWN THE HATCH!
WELL, THE BIG RED CHEESE HIMSELF!
SO! YOU AGAIN! TENACIOUS DOG, PREPARE FOR ANOTHER SHAMEFUL DEFEAT!
HO! WILL YOU NEVER LEARN?
YOU CAN'T USE YOUR STRENGTH WITH YOUR FEET OFF THE FLOOR!
THIS TIME, I WON'T RUSH HIM!... I'LL ADVANCE SLOWLY SO HE CAN'T USE MY MOMENTUM AGAINST ME!
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE LEARNED, BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD...
YOU'RE IN POSITION FOR A TRAP I SET JUST IN CASE... I WILL SEND ENOUGH VOLTAGE TO KILL AN ARMY THROUGH THAT GRID YOU ARE ON!
FAREWELL... IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE...
10

THE FOOL IS DEAD...NOW GET TO WORK ON THE REPAIRS QUICKLY!
LATER...
OOOOOH! WHAT A JOLT! I WONDER HOW LONG I WAS OUT!?
THERE'S MY ANSWER....25 MINUTES. THE BELT HAS JUST TURNED ITSELF OFF!
BZZZ
LOOK! IT IS HE! BUT NO ONE COULD SURVIVE AFTER....
HAVE TO BLUFF IT THROUGH...I MAY NEED THAT LAST FIVE MINUTES OF POWER!
FILTHY SWINE! AM I NEVER RID OF YOU?
AH, BUT YOU HESITATE. SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT PERHAPS...
NOW SEE HERE, PAL... WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE UP?
YES! YOU HAVE LOST YOUR POWER!
UHHHNN!!
CHAIN HIM, LEST HE REGAIN HIS STRENGTH! THROW HIM IN THE CHAMBER WITH THE GIRL!
OH NO! THEY'VE GOT DYNAMO, TOO!
HE WILL BE A PRIZE TO TAKE TO OUR MASTERS!
11

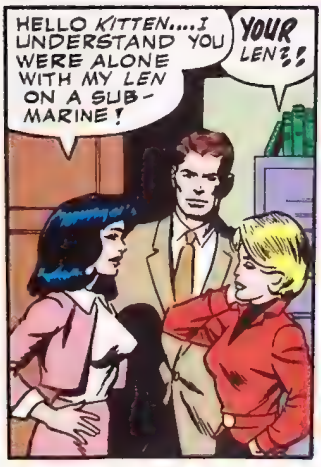
DYNAMO.... THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE ALIVE! HOW DO YOU FEEL...?
DEPRESSED, BUT REASONABLY HEALTHY!
THIS LOOKS BAD...I HEARD THEM SAY THEY'RE TAKING THIS SUB TO RED CHINA. THE REDS WILL BE ABLE TO COPY THE DESIGN AND MASS-PRODUCE IT!
THE PROPELLER IS REPLACED MASTER...WE CAN ESCAPE, AND THE NAVY WILL NOT DARE FIRE ON US!
GOTTA DO SOMETHING! I'VE GOT FIVE MINUTES POWER LEFT. YOU CAN REACH MY BELT....
BABY, YOU TURN ME ON!
GR-RACK!
WHAT WAS THAT?
I DO NOT KNOW, BUT WE HAD BETTER FIND OUT!
WHA.... HOW DID HE GET LOOSE?! SHOOT HIM!
THE TABLES ARE TURNED... NOW YOU'VE GOT TO GET PAST ME TO START THIS SUB!
DO NOT FIRE! I WILL HANDLE HIM MYSELF!

YOU MUST BE A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT, DYNAMO!
NO, I'VE GOT MY POWERS BACK... YOU MAY GET HURT IF...
HA! YOU THINK TO FOOL ME WITH YOUR CHILDISH BLUFFING AGAIN!
SUIT YOURSELF, CHUM! BUT DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU!
FENDING ME OFF WILL NOT SAVE YOU FOR...
YAAAH!
MY ARM IS BROKEN! SHOOT HIM! KILL HIM!
SMALL ARMS HAVE NO EFFECT! AIM FOR HIS EYES!
GET THE RECOIL-LESS RIFLE WORKING!
TIME IS RUNNING OUT... HAVE TO PUT A STOP TO THIS IN A HURRY!
13

♫ MER-RILY WE ROLL ALONG...♫
WELL, GUESS THAT WRAPS UP THIS CASE!


CONGRATULATIONS, SON! YOU'VE DONE A GREAT SERVICE TO NATIONAL SECURITY!
THANK YOU, SIR! I WAS ONLY DOING MY JOB! THESE RATS WILL NEVER LEARN...

AFTERWARD AT T.H.U.N.D.E.R. H.Q.
WELL, CHIEF, IT ALL CAME OUT FINE, THOUGH IT HAD ME WORRIED FOR A WHILE!!
YES... AND IN A WAY, I'M GLAD YOU ALMOST MET YOUR MATCH... YOU'VE BEEN GETTING SMUG ABOUT YOUR POWER LATELY. ANYWAY, THE "RED STAR" THREAT IS FAR FROM OVER...


HELLO KITTEN....I UNDERSTAND YOU WERE ALONE WITH MY LEN ON A SUBMARINE!
YOUR LEN?!

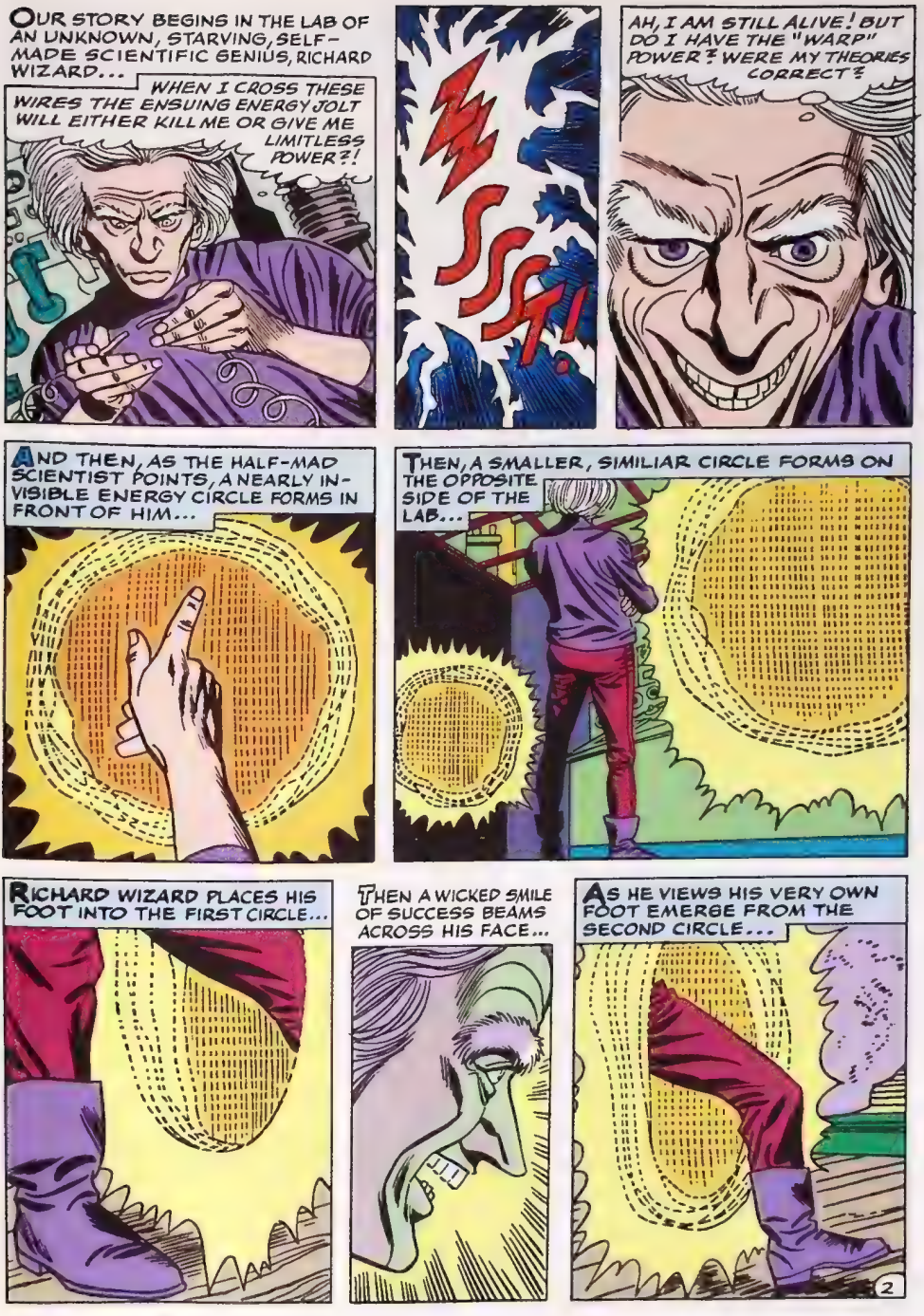
GIRLS, GIRLS..... DON'T FIGHT. AFTER ALL, THERE'S ENOUGH OF ME TO GO AROUND!

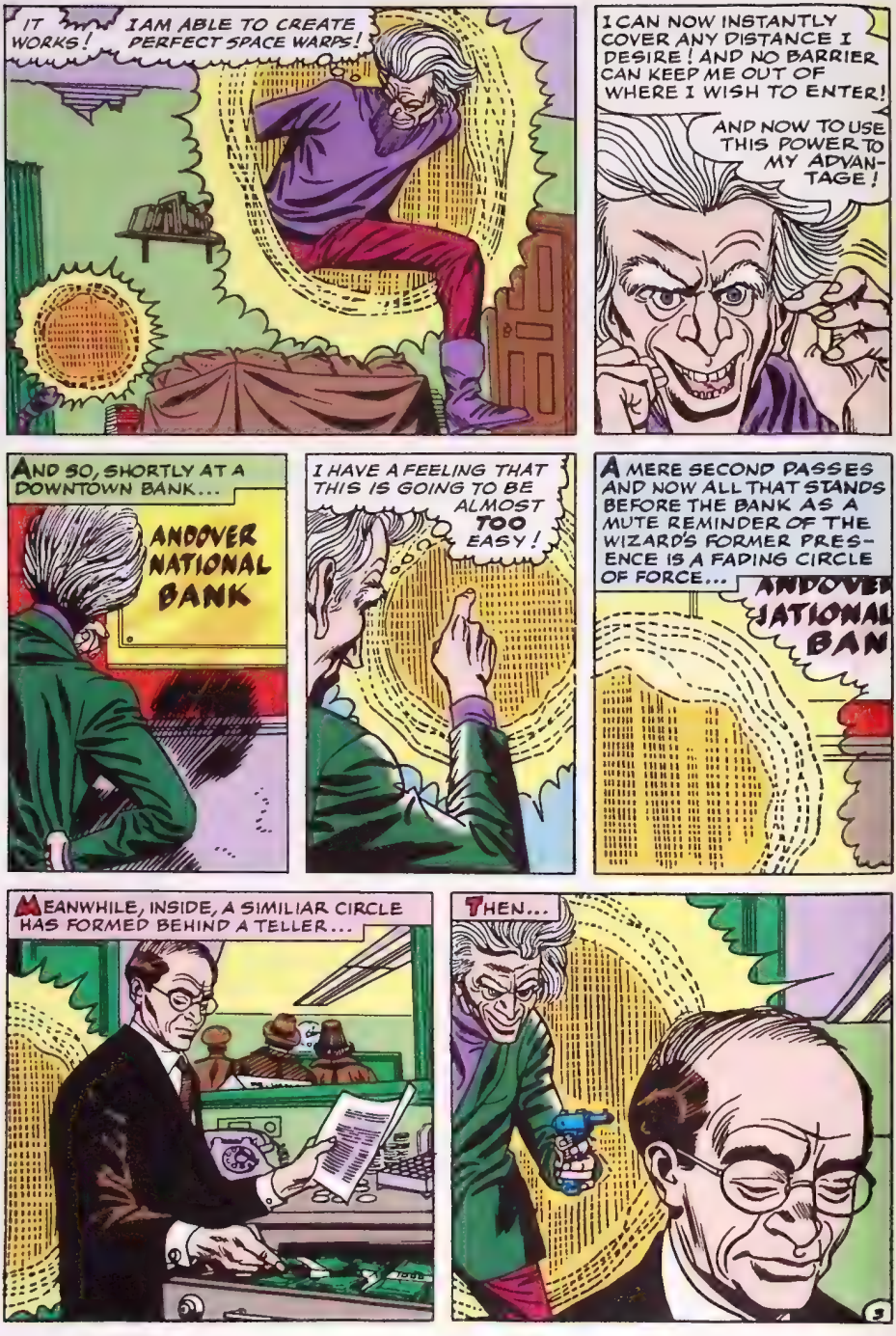
CAD!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE, GALS... I WAS ONLY KIDDING....
THE END

THUNDER AGENT
LIGHTNING
MEET RICHARD WIZARD, OUR NOMINATION FOR THE MOST UNIQUE VILLAIN OF THE YEAR!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, LIGHTNING! NO ONE CAN CAPTURE ME--NOT EVEN YOU!--FOR I HAVE CREATED A METHOD OF ESCAPE THAT IS BEYOND BELIEF!

WHAT AMAZING POWER DOES RICHARD WIZARD POSSESS? TURN THE PAGE AND YOU'LL FIND OUT! IT'S ALL HERE IN THIS EXCITING TALE, ENTITLED...

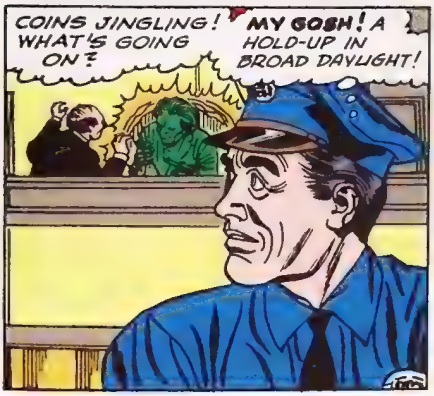
THE ORIGIN of the WARP WIZARD!


OUR STORY BEGINS IN THE LAB OF AN UNKNOWN, STARVING, SELF-MADE SCIENTIFIC GENIUS, RICHARD WIZARD...
WHEN I CROSS THESE WIRES THE ENSUING ENERGY JOLT WILL EITHER KILL ME OR GIVE ME LIMITLESS POWER?!
SSSZT!
AH, I AM STILL ALIVE! BUT DO I HAVE THE "WARP" POWER? WERE MY THEORIES CORRECT?
AND THEN, AS THE HALF-MAD SCIENTIST POINTS, A NEARLY INVISIBLE ENERGY CIRCLE FORMS IN FRONT OF HIM...
THEN, A SMALLER, SIMILIAR CIRCLE FORMS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE LAB...
RICHARD WIZARD PLACES HIS FOOT INTO THE FIRST CIRCLE...
THEN A WICKED SMILE OF SUCCESS BEAMS ACROSS HIS FACE...
AS HE VIEWS HIS VERY OWN FOOT EMERGE FROM THE SECOND CIRCLE...
2

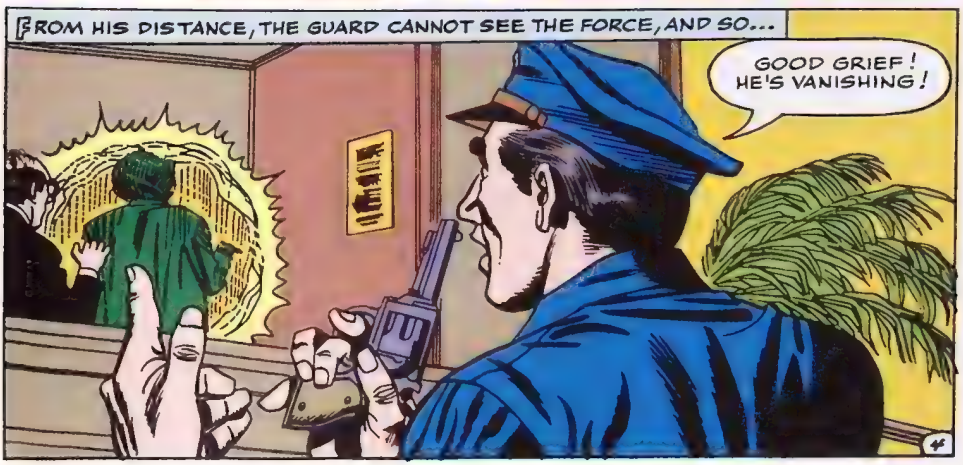

IT WORKS!
I AM ABLE TO CREATE PERFECT SPACE WARPS!
I CAN NOW INSTANTLY COVER ANY DISTANCE I DESIRE! AND NO BARRIER CAN KEEP ME OUT OF WHERE I WISH TO ENTER!
AND NOW TO USE THIS POWER TO MY ADVANTAGE!
AND SO, SHORTLY AT A DOWNTOWN BANK...
ANDOVER NATIONAL BANK
I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE ALMOST TOO EASY!
A MERE SECOND PASSES AND NOW ALL THAT STANDS BEFORE THE BANK AS A MUTE REMINDER OF THE WIZARD'S FORMER PRESENCE IS A FADING CIRCLE OF FORCE...
ANDOVER
JATIONAL
BAN
MEANWHILE, INSIDE, A SIMILIAR CIRCLE HAS FORMED BEHIND A TELLER...
THEN...
3

THUS:
WH-WHAT? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
QUIET DOWN AND CUT THE QUESTIONS! NOW CALMLY HAND OVER ALL THE MONEY WITHIN YOUR REACH...
HANEY

BUT THE SHAKING HANDS OF THE FRIGHTENED TELLER TELLS ALL...



HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MAC! ONE SUDDEN MOVE AND YOU'LL BE KISSING FLOOR BOARDS!
WHY, THANK YOU, GUARD! YOU HAVE JUST GIVEN ME THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWERS.
NOW, TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF WHAT HAPPENS! I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO MISREPRESENT MARVELOUS ME TO THE PRESS!



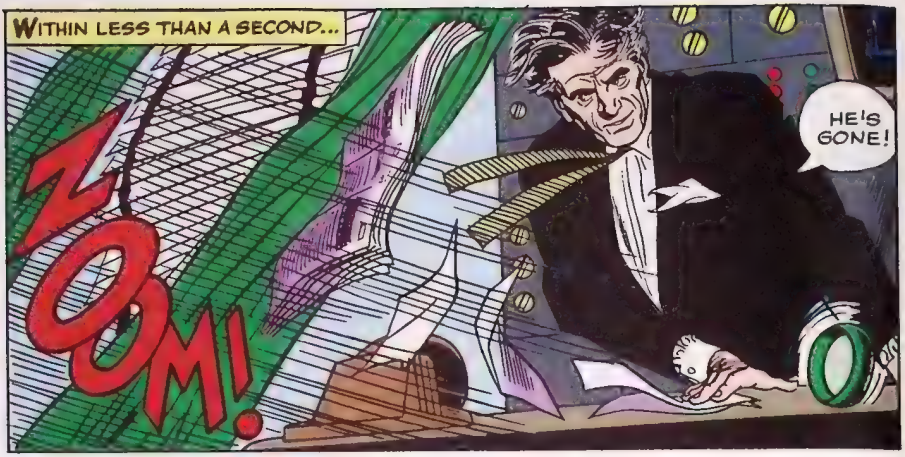
NO! THAT CAN'T BE! HE JUST MUST HAVE RUN SO FAST THAT I COULDN'T SEE HIM!
B-BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE TOO!
BUT THE WIZARD IS STILL AROUND...
BEHIND YOU, QUICK! BEFORE I ESCAPE!
BUT EVEN AS THE GUARD SWIFTLY TURNS IN AN ATTEMPT TO TRAP THE TAUNTER...
SO LONG!
IT ONLY TAKES MICRO-SECONDS FOR THE GUARD TO COMPLETE HIS TURN! HOWEVER, BY THEN, EVEN THE CIRCLE OF FORCE HAS DISAPPEARED...
HE HAS ESCAPED! BUT HOW?? NO MORTAL CAN MAKE THAT QUICK A GET AWAY!
D-DID THIS ALL REALLY HAPPEN OR AM I GOING OUT OF MY MIND?
STILL UNDER THE ILLUSION THAT HE HAS WITNESSED INCREDIBLE SPEED, THE GUARD REPLIES...
ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT I SAW IT TOO-- A MAN WHO MOVED AS SWIFTLY AS A BOLT OF LIGHTNING!
LIGHTNING!! HMMM...I WONDER...
ANDOVER NATIONAL BANK

A MERE MISGUIDED HUNCH SOMETIMES HAS A WAY OF HITTING THE HEADLINES, WHICH WE LEARN AS WE NOW FINALLY JOIN OUR HERO...

OF COURSE NOT! WE HAVE A COMPLETE RECORD OF YOUR ACTIVITIES DURING THE TIME OF THE ROBBERY!
BUT THE SIMPLE TRUTH IS THAT THIS SUSPICION AND EVEN THIS PUBLICITY, IS HURTING THUNDER SECURITY!

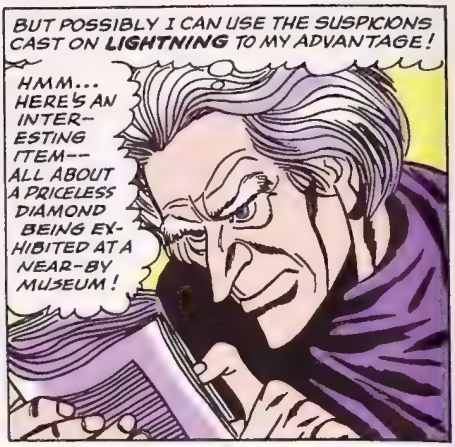
HMMM... MY IMPOSTER PULLED THE BANK ROBBERY OFF EASILY! I HAVE A HUNCH HE'LL NOW GO AFTER SOMETHING BIG!
MAYBE IF I CHECK INTO THE POSSIBLE PLACES HE MAY STRIKE NEXT...

LIGHTING TWISTS A DIAL, AND INSTANTLY THE SPEED OF HIS NERVE AND MUSCLE REACTIONS IS INCREASED TO ONE HUNDRED TIMES THAT OF AN AVERAGE HUMAN...
6

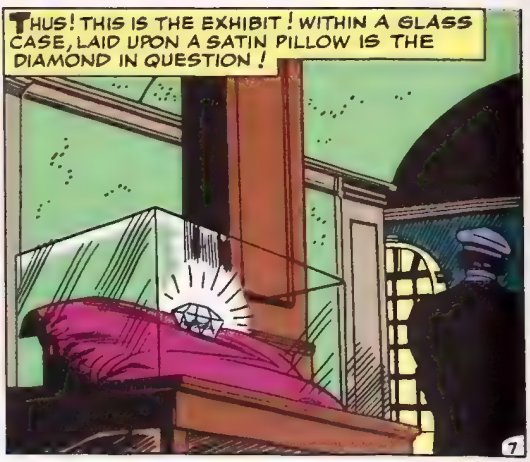


WHILE *LIGHTNING* BOLTS ACROSS TOWN, LET US LOOK IN ON OUR VILLAIN...

SO, THE PUBLIC STILL REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE THE GENIUS OF RICHARD WIZARD! THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO SUSPECT ANOTHER!
HERALD
THUNDER AGENT SUSPECTED


BUT POSSIBLY I CAN USE THE SUSPICIONS CAST ON *LIGHTNING* TO MY ADVANTAGE!
HMM... HERE'S AN INTER-ESTING ITEM-- ALL ABOUT A PRICELESS DIAMOND BEING EX-HIBITED AT A NEAR-BY MUSEUM!

THEN... I HOPE I'VE JUDGED THE DISTANCE CORRECTLY! I'D FEEL RATHER FOOLISH IF I ENDED UP IN THE DELICATESSEN *NEXT DOOR* TO THE MUSEUM!

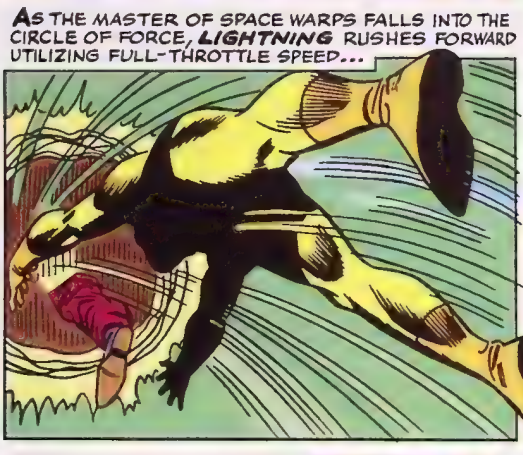


SUDDENLY, A VILLAINOUS FORM IS ADDED TO THE MUSEUM DECOR...
PRESENTING...
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
AND THEN, BEFORE THE AMAZED EYES OF THE GUARD...
...THE WORLD'S MOST DARING, DEVIL-MAY-CARE DESPERADO...
...STARRING IN ANOTHER SWIFT SINGLE-HANDED HEIST!
CRASH!
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE, FATE SUDDENLY TURNS AGAINST THE VILLAIN...
WELL, HOW LUCKY CAN A GUY BE!?
HE'S HERE--AT THE VERY FIRST PLACE I DECIDED TO CHECK!
SLOWLY, QUIETLY, CONFIDENT AND UN-NOTICED, OUR HERO ENTERS AND LISTENS TO THE WORDS OF THE WIZARD...
DON'T ANY OF YOU TRY TO STOP ME! I HAVE POWERS YOU NEVER DREAMED OF... FOR I AM LIGHTNING!

LIKE HANGNAILS YOU ARE!
ULLLPp!!
EXCUSE ME! I HAVE A FEELING I OVERSTAYED MY WELCOME!
HE'S ESCAPING THROUGH SOME SORT OF SPACE WARP!
LIGHTNING LUNGES FORWARD IN AN ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW, HOWEVER...
IT WON'T WORK FOR ME! IT MUST FUNCTION ONLY FOR ITS CREATOR!
A WOEFUL AGENT WATCHES THE WARP ENTRANCE FADE...
I WAS OVER-CONFIDENT BY ANNOUNCING MYSELF! BY NOT SIMPLY SNEAKING UP, I MADE IT EASY FOR THE THIEF TO ESCAPE!
SUDDENLY, LIGHTNING LEARNS, IN A MOST UNCONVENTIONAL WAY, THAT THE WARP WIZARD HAS NOT LEFT THE PREMISES, BUT HAS ONLY CHANGED HIS POSITION THERE IN!
A GUN SAFETY CATCH!
CLICK!

BUT THE VILLAINOUS EGO-MANIAC HAS UNDER-ESTIMATED THE TRUE SPEED OF OUR HERO, FOR EVEN BEFORE THE TRIGGER CAN BE PULLED...
AW COME ON, BUSTER! A BRAVE MAN LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO SHOOT FOR THE BACKBONE!
LET'S FIGHT THIS OUT FACE TO FACE!
WITH ONE SWIFT JUDO JAB, A GRIP LOOSENS AND A DIAMOND FALLS...
THEN THE AGENT MOVES IN FOR THE HAY-MAKER...
I GOT HIM NOW! ONE MORE BELT AND HE SHOULD BE UNCONSCIOUS!
BUT...
THE DIAMOND! I'M LOOSING MY FOOTING!
I'M FALLING!
I'D BETTER MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY! IT MAY BE THE ONLY ONE I'LL GET!
10

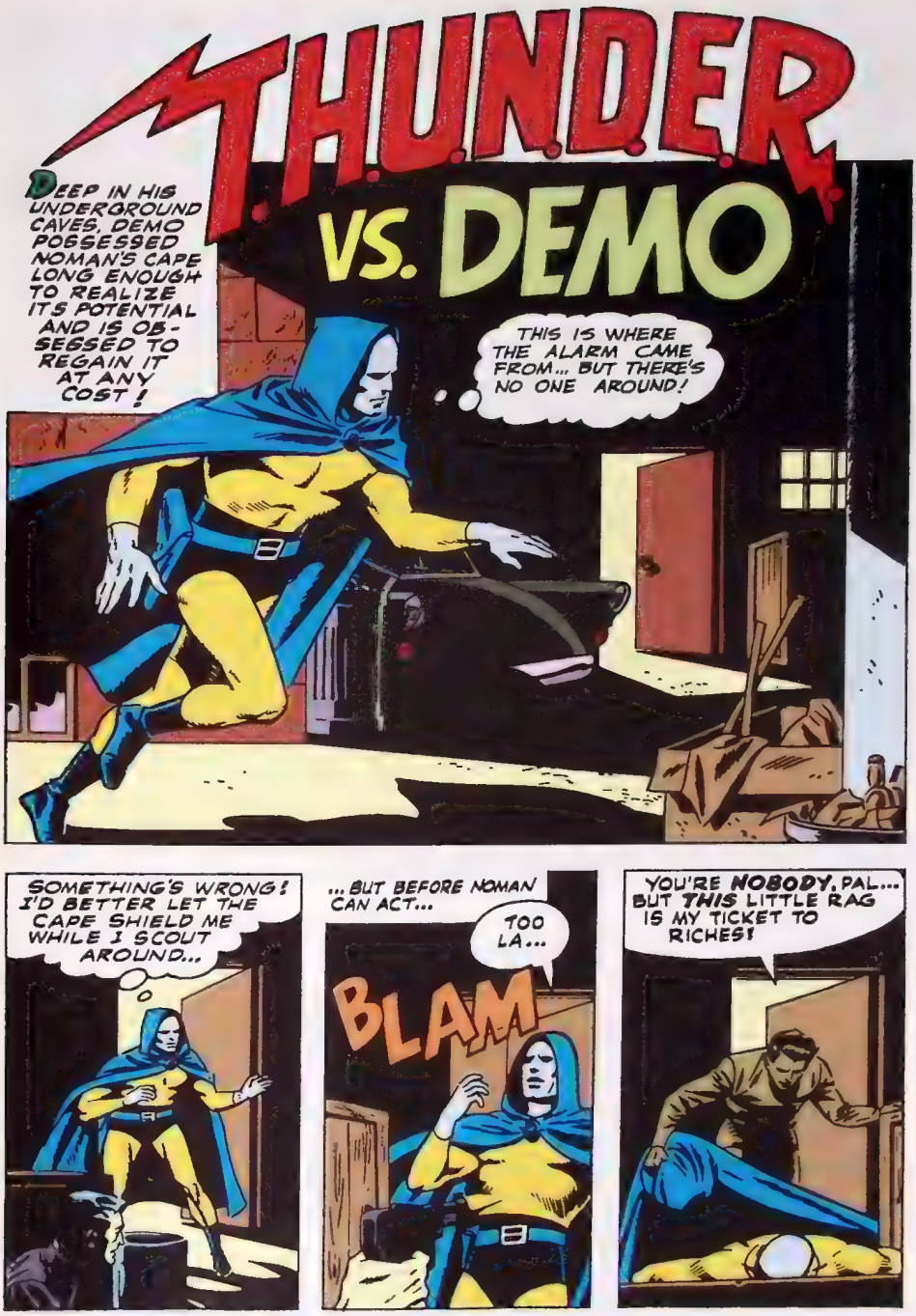
I HAVE LOST THE JEWEL! BUT THAT MATTERS LITTLE, AS LONG AS I DON'T LOSE THE FREEDOM TO ROB AGAIN!
I MUST REGAIN MY FOOTING BEFORE HE GETS AWAY!

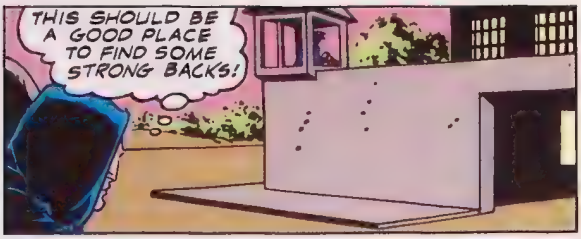


BUT THE ROBBERY HAS BEEN CHECKED--AND I'VE LEARNED ABOUT THE WARPS! THE NEXT TIME I MEET THIS WEIRDY, I'LL BE MORE PREPARED FOR HIS BRAND OF BATTLE!

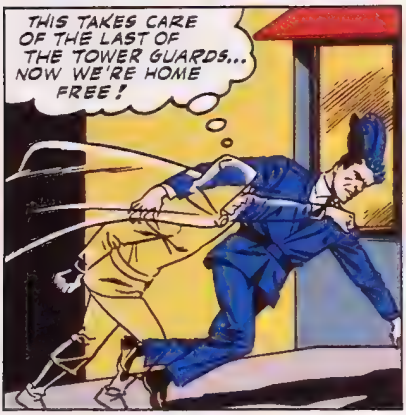
NEXT ISSUE **LIGHTNING** MEETS THE WARP WIZARD AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME IT'LL BE A SHOW-DOWN!

DON'T MISS IT!


T.H.U.N.D.E.R.
VS. DEMO
DEEP IN HIS UNDERGROUND CAVES, DEMO POSSESSED NOMAN'S CAPE LONG ENOUGH TO REALIZE ITS POTENTIAL AND IS OBSESSED TO REGAIN IT AT ANY COST!
THIS IS WHERE THE ALARM CAME FROM... BUT THERE'S NO ONE AROUND!
SOMETHING'S WRONG! I'D BETTER LET THE CAPE SHIELD ME WHILE I SCOUT AROUND...
...BUT BEFORE NOMAN CAN ACT...
TOO LA...
BLAM
YOU'RE NOBODY, PAL... BUT THIS LITTLE RAG IS MY TICKET TO RICHES!



DEMO PASSES THE PRISON GATES UNNOTICED...



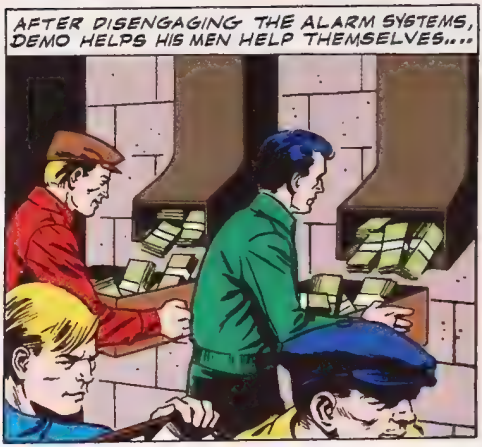
AT HIS SECRET HIDEOUT IN THE POCONO MOUNTAINS, DEMO OUTLINES HIS CRIME CAMPAIGN TO A NEW HOST OF FOLLOWERS...

AN URGENT MEETING AT THUNDER HQ :

I'LL STATION MY ANDROIDS ALL OVER THE CITY... WHERE EVER THEY STRIKE, I CAN ALERT YOU..... DYNAMO CAN TAKE CARE OF THE CONS WITH HIS BELT....

... AND MENTHOR CAN TRACE DEMO WITH THE E.S.P. POWERS OF HIS HELMET....
VERY GOOD PLAN... UH HUH, NOT BAD AT ALL ....
BUT NOT QUITE GOOD ENOUGH!

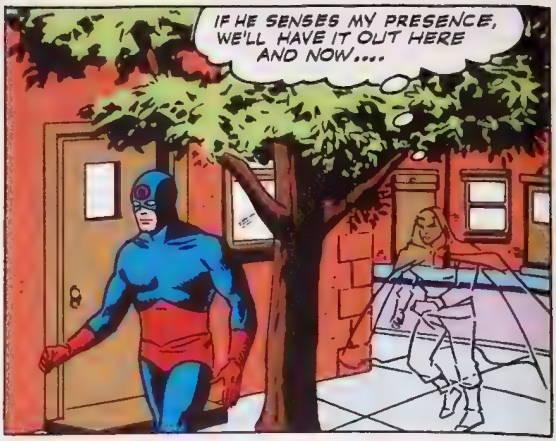
PHILADELPHIA!
THOSE FOOLS AT THUNDER WILL BE ALL PUT OUT THAT I CHOSE TO VISIT THE MINT INSTEAD OF THEM...


AFTER DISENGAGING THE ALARM SYSTEMS, DEMO HELPS HIS MEN HELP THEMSELVES....

RUN, YOU DOLTS!

LATER, ALONE IN HIS HOTEL ROOM...
THAT WAS ALMOST TOO EASY...
3

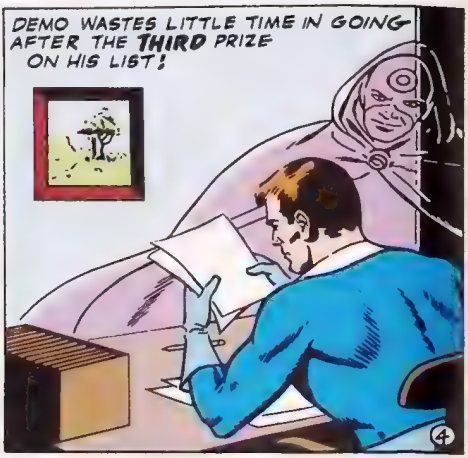
... BUT I'D BE ALL THE MORE INVINCIBLE WITH THAT HELMET OF MENTHOR'S AND DYNAMO'S BELT.... WHY NOT?!!!


IF HE SENSES MY PRESENCE, WE'LL HAVE IT OUT HERE AND NOW....

BUT MENTHOR'S CONCENTRATION IS ON OTHER MATTERS... AND EVENTUALLY EVEN THUNDER AGENTS SLEEP....
ALL LAID OUT LIKE A GIFT FOR THE GOOD FAIRY....

NOT QUITE! DEMO'S TOUCH SETS OFF AN ALARM!...
SKREEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEE

SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, MENTHOR... BUT NOW YOU CAN GO RIGHT BACK TO DREAMLAND!


DEMO WASTES LITTLE TIME IN GOING AFTER THE THIRD PRIZE ON HIS LIST!
4

DYNAMO... YOU'RE POWERLESS TO STOP ME....HAND OVER THE THUNDER BELT!
THANKS BLOCKHEAD!
AT LAST I HAVE ALL THE COMBINED SCIENTIFIC MARVELS OF THE THUNDER AGENTS!
NOW TO TURN THE DIAL, AND...
ARRRRGH!
BLAST THEM... I CAN'T MOVE! THE BELT MUST HAVE BEEN RIGGED WITH SOME-THING!
WE GOT THE FAKE BELT TO DYNAMO JUST IN TIME....AFTER DEMO GRABBED THE HELMET, IT WAS OBVIOUS HE'D NOT STOP THERE....THE DRUG IN THE NEEDLE WILL PARALYZE HIM AS SOON AS HE TURNS THAT DIAL....
AND THE MINIATURE RADIO WILL GIVE US A FIX...
WE'VE GOT HIS POSITION, SIR!
LET'S GET HIM!

BACK AT DEMO'S APARTMENT...
IT'S SATANA!
COME HERE, QUICK... AND HELP ME OFF WITH THIS BELT...
DEMO GUIDES THE GIRL THROUGH THE POWER OF MENTHOR'S HELMET
FOR ALL THE EQUIPMENT YOU'RE WEARING, YOU'RE A PRETTY PITIFUL SIGHT....
NEVER MIND THE WISE-CRACKS....WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
IS THAT SO IMPORTANT JUST NOW?
FOR ONCE, YOU'RE RIGHT....THIS IS A TRANSMITTER! WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE FAST!
MINUTES LATER
KER-RASH!
BUT AN EVIL IMAGINATION HAS ALLOWED FOR ANY EMERGENCY...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD, BACK IN THE CAVERNS....
I TRIED TO SAVE YOU, BUT NOMAN STOPPED ME....

I'M GLAD YOU MANAGED TO ESCAPE.... BUT HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU FOR SOME TIME...

AND I WANT TO BE YOUR SECOND-IN-COMMAND AGAIN... JUST AS I WAS BEFORE...
YOU'VE EARNED IT!

OKAY... HOW ABOUT LETTING ME WEAR THE HELMET?
HUMMM... SHE'S A LITTLE TOO ANXIOUS....
TAKE THE CAPE INSTEAD....

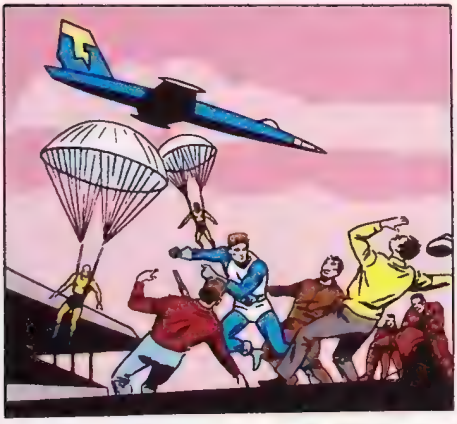
IT'S MY TURN FOR A GAG... I WANT YOU TO SWITCH BELTS WITH DYNAMO AGAIN!
WE'LL PULL A JOB... HE'LL SHOW UP, ALL FULL OF BOUNCE... GET A TASTE OF HIS OWN NEEDLE... AND I'LL FINISH HIM OFF!

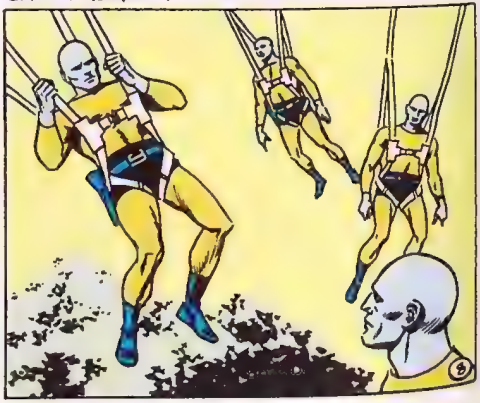
SATANA CARRIES OUT HER MISSION WITH OBVIOUS GLEE...

SOMEBODY'S SURE GONNA BE SURPRISED!
7

BUT THE ACTION IS CARRIED OUT AS USUAL, AND DYNAMO PILES INTO THE LAWBREAKERS WITH THE FURY OF HERCULES!

NOT FAR BEHIND, LIFELESS FORMS DESCEND... AND NOMAN DIRECTS CONSCIOUSNESS TO EACH ANDROID AT THE MOMENT OF IMPACT!





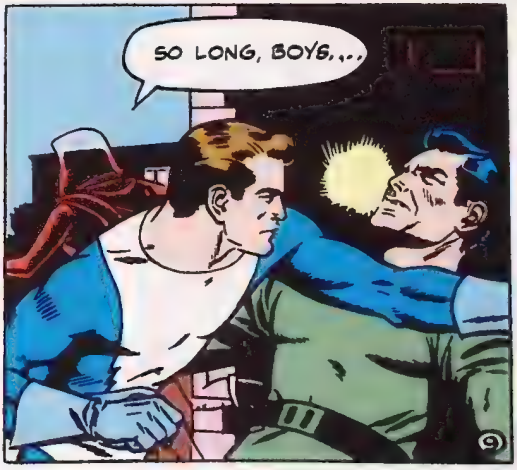
YOU DISOBEYED ME! YOU DIDN'T SWITCH BELTS WITH DYNAMO AT ALL!

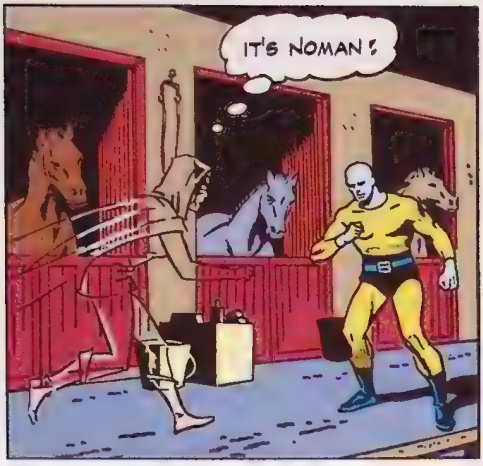
Y...YES...YOU LEFT ME TO DIE IN THE CAVES, AND WOULD TRY AGAIN IF I GAVE YOU THE CHANCE....
NOW YOU'LL BE CAUGHT.... AND I HAVE THE CAPE!

YOU'VE FORGOTTEN JUST ONE DETAIL... MENTHOR'S HELMET!

PLAYTIME'S ABOUT OVER, DEMO!
WHA!
WHILE THESE TWO CLODS ARE BUSY, I CAN DO A FAST FADE-OUT....

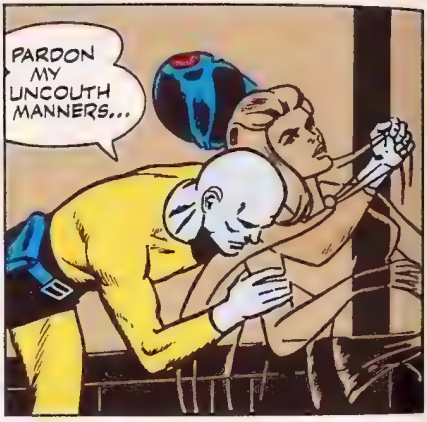
THIS IS REALLY MORE THAN I BARGAINED FOR!
HANDLE DYNAMO WITHOUT THIS, MASTERMIND!


SO LONG, BOYS,...



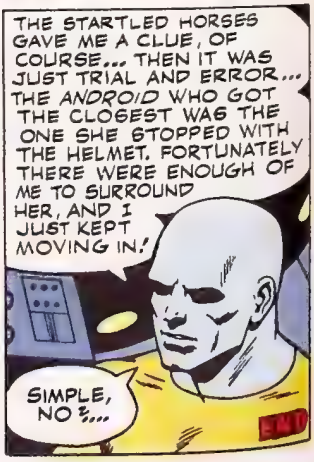
AS THE GIRL HALTS, BEWILDERED, NOMAN ADVANCES... EACH ANDROID ONE STEP AT A TURN....

UNTIL FINALLY, ONE MANAGES TO RIP OFF HER INVISIBLE CLOAK!



THUNDER'S MULTIPLE AGENT IS **NOMAN** ONCE MORE!

LATER, AFTER DEMO AND SATANA ARE SAFELY JAILED...


THE STARTLED HORSES GAVE ME A CLUE, OF COURSE... THEN IT WAS JUST TRIAL AND ERROR... THE *ANDROID* WHO GOT THE CLOSEST WAS THE ONE SHE STOPPED WITH THE HELMET. FORTUNATELY THERE WERE ENOUGH OF ME TO SURROUND HER, AND I JUST KEPT MOVING IN!
SIMPLE, NO?...
THE END

MENTHOR

IT IS HARDLY SURPRISING TO FIND A VARIETY OF WEIRD CHARACTERS DURING HOLIDAY TIME IN RIO, BUT **MENTHOR** MANAGES TO MEET THE MOST VICIOUS OF ALL AT....

"The CARNIVAL of DEATH"

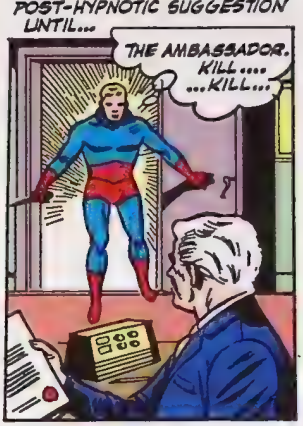
ALTHOUGH HE'S ON AN OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC MISSION, EVEN A THUNDER AGENT GETS AN EVENING OFF...
AT LEAST MY COSTUME'S INCONSPICUOUS...I'M THE SQUAREST CAT ON THE STREET!
WIN
ZIZAQZ
SAY... THIS FAKER'S IN MY RACKET!
the MIGHT
WHO WILL VOLUNTEER TO HELP ZIZAQZ IN A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS POWERS?
I'M NOT AFRAID!
NOT BAD... I'M SURE SHE'S NOT A PLANT... WONDER WHAT HE COULD DO WITH ME?...
NONE CAN RESIST THE WILL OF ZIZAQZ!
IF THAT'S A CHALLENGE, I'LL TAKE IT!
BUT IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR WITH THIS...
A BRAVE YOUNG MAN.... BUT SEE HOW LETHARGIC YOU FEEL....
BEHIND MENTHOR'S BACK, AN ACCOMPLICE RELEASES A QUICK-ACTING GAS.....
AND THE PERFORMER DOES HAVE GENUINE TALENTS....
I'VE NEVER KNOWN SUCH AN ACTIVE MIND... POWERFUL THOUGHTS!
2

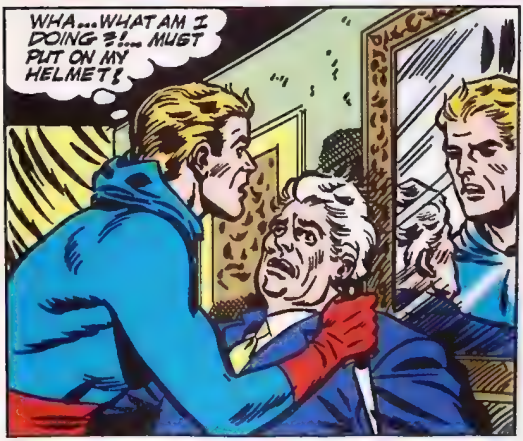
MUST PROTECT AMBASSADOR... DON'T TELL THIS MAN ANYTHING....RESIST... RESIST....
WHAT'S THIS?! FATE'S DELIVERED ME AN AMERICAN AGENT!

AFTER SIGNALING HIS HENCHMEN TO BRING DOWN THE CURTAIN....
YOU WILL KILL THE AMBASSADOR TONIGHT... YOU MUST REMEMBER!
KILL... THE AMBASSADOR...

JUST AS QUICKLY, THE CURTAINS ARE REOPENED, AND THE PERFORMANCE ENDS...
I CONCEDE, MY FRIEND... YOU CANNOT BE HYPNOTIZED...

AFTER MENTHOR LEAVES....
WHAT A BREAK! CALL EVERYONE TOGETHER!

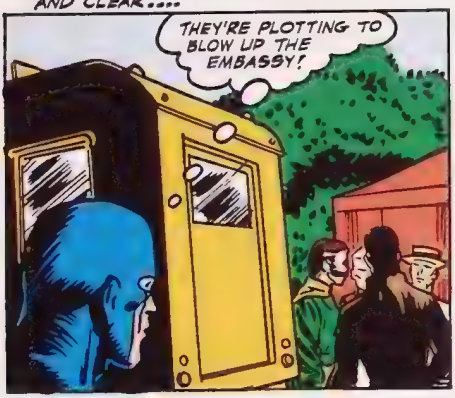

MENTHOR IS UNAWARE OF THE POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION UNTIL...
THE AMBASSADOR. KILL.... ...KILL...


WHA...WHAT AM I DOING?!... MUST PUT ON MY HELMET!

NOW I REMEMBER! IF MY OWN IMAGE HADN'T STARTLED ME, I'D HAVE DONE IT!
ZIZAQZ MUST BE AN ENEMY AGENT... WHAT ELSE IS HE UP TO?!!
3

THE NEXT EVENING...
ZIZAQZ

IS EVERY-ONE HERE, GROAT?
THEY'RE WAITING!

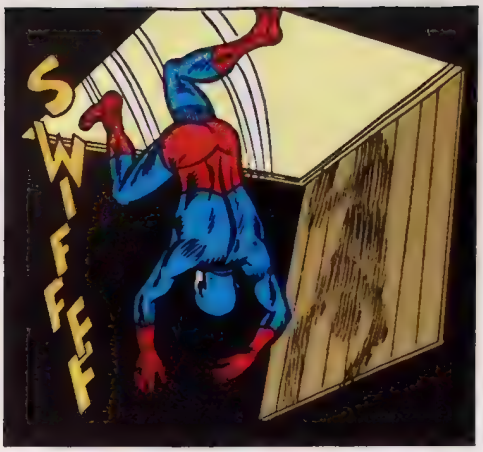

ALTHOUGH HE'S TOO FAR AWAY TO HEAR THEIR VOICES, THE HELMET'S RECEPTION IS LOUD AND CLEAR....
THEY'RE PLOTTING TO BLOW UP THE EMBASSY!

BUT ZIZAQZ IS PSI-SENSITIVE TO MENTHOR'S INTRUSION, AND TURNS IN ALARM TOWARD THE HIDDEN THUNDER AGENT!
?

GROAT! REESE! STOP HIM!

I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE HIM... IN HERE.... QUICK!
?!!!
THE MANIAC! HOW CAN I STOP THOSE LIONS ?!
WE'LL BE KILLED!
HELP!!
...UNLESS I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT REALLY TURNS A LION ON...
IT'S WORKING!
THE LIONS LEAP FIERCELY AT THEIR IMAGINED PREY, ONLY TO FIND SOLID BRICK IN THE WAY....
5

I GUESS THE TRAINERS CAN HANDLE THEM NOW...BUT WHERE'S MY HARDHEADED HYPNOTIST!?
I KNEW THEY COULDN'T RESIST WAITING AROUND FOR THE SHOW...
THUUUCK!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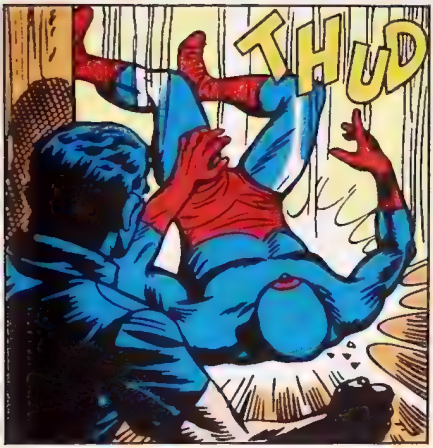
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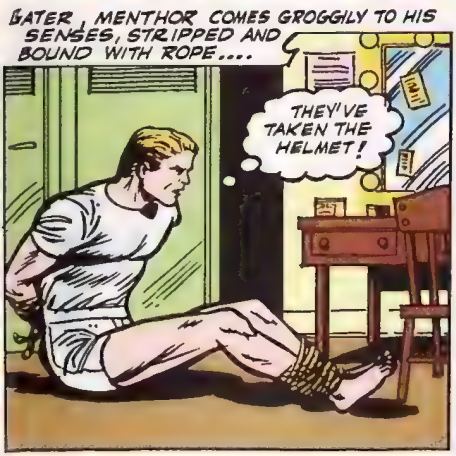
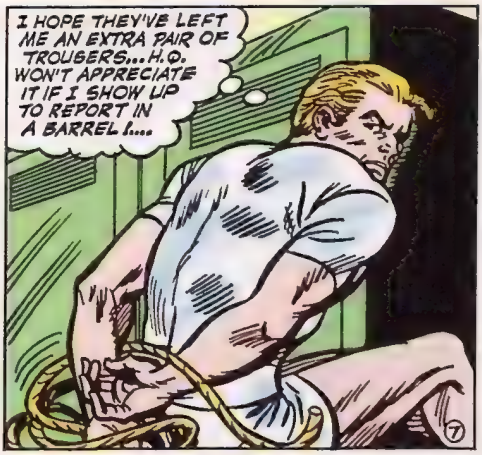
THONK

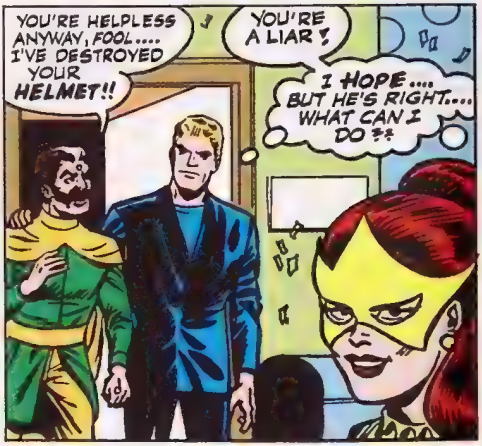

LATER, MENTHOR COMES GROGGILY TO HIS SENSES, STRIPPED AND BOUND WITH ROPE....
THEY'VE TAKEN THE HELMET!


I HOPE THEY'VE LEFT ME AN EXTRA PAIR OF TROUSERS... H.Q. WON'T APPRECIATE IT IF I SHOW UP TO REPORT IN A BARREL!....

A FEW MINUTES LATER....
NOW THAT THE EXPLOSIVES ARE PLANTED, IT'S TIME TO TAKE CARE OF MENTHOR!
LOOK OUT.... HE'S FREE!
SHOW

THE BOMBS!.. WHERE ARE THEY?!!
LET ME GO....IT'S TOO LATE TO DO ANY-THING NOW...!

YOU'D BETTER HOPE NOT! NOW SHOW ME THE WAY.... QUICK!!


YOU'RE HELPLESS ANYWAY, FOOL.... I'VE DESTROYED YOUR HELMET!!
YOU'RE A LIAR!
I HOPE.... BUT HE'S RIGHT.... WHAT CAN I DO?!

I'LL HAVE TO COMMANDEER THIS TRUCK, NEIGHBOR... EXPLAIN LATER!
HEY!!

MENTHOR SPEEDS AS FAST AS HE CAN THROUGH THE CROWD-FILLED STREETS....
IT'S THAT AGENT! HE'S CAPTURED ZIZAQZ!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

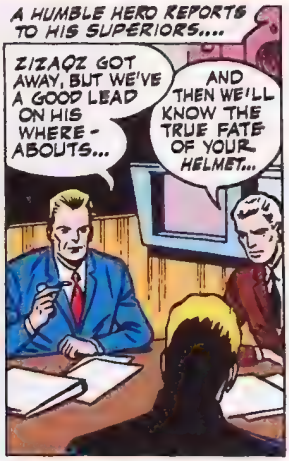
THOSE THREE MUST BE THE SABOTEURS! I COULD STOP THEM SO EASILY WITH MY HELMET...
... THAT THE MEN FALTER UNCERTAINLY IN THE EBB AND FLOW FIELD OF HIS WILL....
SO INTENTLY DOES MENTHOR CONCENTRATE....
OF COURSE! MY BRAIN HAS BUILT UP ENOUGH 'CHARGE' OF ITS OWN OVER THE MONTHS... IF I CAN ONLY...
FOCUS MY ENERGY !!
STOP! YOUR LIVES REVERSE COURSE AT THIS MOMENT... YOU WILL RELIVE EVERY ACTION...
... FROM THIS INSTANT, BACKWARDS IN TIME!

LIKE ACTORS ON A BACK-WINDING REEL, THE THREE MEN LEAD MENTHOR INSIDE THE MAIN HALL....

UNTIL THEY RETRACE THEIR STEPS TO THE HIDDEN RECESSES WHERE THE TIME BOMBS ARE HIDDEN!

BUT THE GUARD'S SARCASM IS UNHEARD, FOR AS SOON AS THE INTENSE TRANSFERENCE IS BROKEN, THE STRAIN TAKES ITS TOLL...

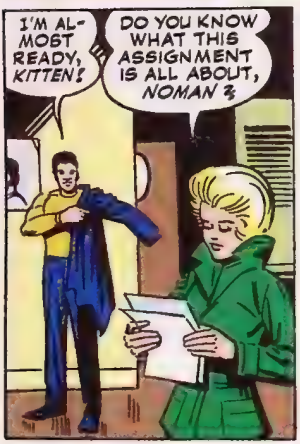
A HUMBLE HERO REPORTS TO HIS SUPERIORS....



AT LEAST I STILL HAVE PARTIAL POWER OF MY OWN...
WE'RE RETAINING YOU AS AN AGENT ON PROBATION, BUT YOU WILL NOT BE ISSUED A NEW UNIFORM UNTIL THE HELMET'S RECOVERED...
I'LL REALLY HAVE TO WORK OUT NOW!
End

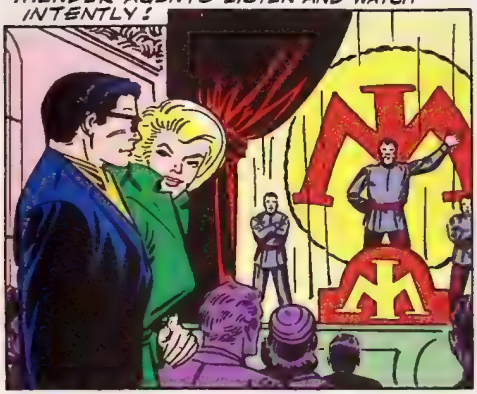
NoMan in "TO FIGHT ALONE!"

MR. IMAGE CANNOT HYPNOTICALLY INFLUENCE ME BECAUSE I'M AN ANDROID! BUT HOW CAN I DEFEAT A MAN WHO CAN TURN ANYONE AGAINST ME!!!
COME WITH US NOW TO "NOMAN'S LAND", AS THE UNSEEN AGENT, KEEPER OF THE CAPE OF INVISIBILITY, POSSESSOR OF THE ABILITY TO TRANSMIT HIS CONSCIOUSNESS FROM ONE ANDROID BODY TO ANOTHER, TACKLES A MOST LONESOME TASK!



MEANWHILE....WE NOW TAKE YOU BACKSTAGE WHERE TONIGHT'S SPEAKER IS MAKING HIS LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS!

SOON, MR. IMAGE STEPS TO THE PODIUM. WHILE IN THE SURROUNDING CROWD, TWO THUNDER AGENTS LISTEN AND WATCH INTENTLY!



AS MR. IMAGE SPEAKS A WEIRD MASTERFUL GLINT COMES INTO HIS EYES!

THE CROWD REACTS WITH DISBELIEF.

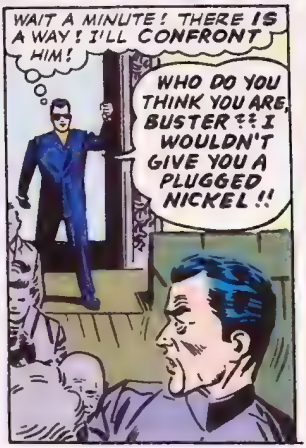
BUT SUDDENLY THEIR WORDS DWINDLE.

THEN, THERE COMES A CHANT.

WE WILL OBEY!
KITTEN !! EVEN SHE'S NOW UNDER MR. IMAGE'S POWER !

INSTANTLY, A LINE FORMS, AS THE AUDIENCE MEMBERS ATTEMPT TO COMPLY WITH IMAGE'S REQUEST !
HERE'S THE DEED TO MY COUNTRY ESTATE !

IMAGE IS EXERTING SOME SORT OF CONTROL OVER THESE PEOPLE ! I MUST FIND OUT WHAT THIS CONTROL IS ! BUT HOW ?!

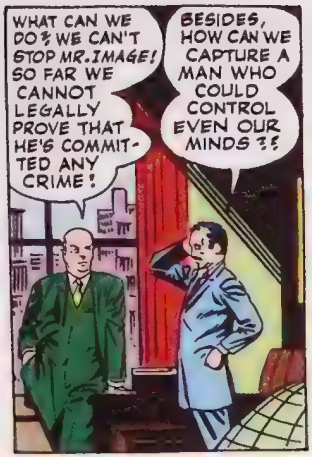

WAIT A MINUTE ! THERE IS A WAY ! I'LL CONFRONT HIM !
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, BUSTER ?! I WOULDN'T GIVE YOU A PLUGGED NICKEL !!

A DISBELIEVER ! SOMEHOW, MY HYPNOTIC FORCE DID NOT AFFECT HIM ! GET HIM, MY FOLLOWERS!

THEY'RE ALL ATTACKING ME !!

BUT I'VE FOUND OUT WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW.... SO I'LL SIMPLY SWITCH MY MIND INTO ANOTHER BODY !
4

AT NOMAN'S LAB.
THERE!...
AND NOW TO TUNE IN ON THE MICROPHONE THAT'S HIDDEN ON THE OTHER BODY!
ONCE MORE TO THE PARK...
A PORELESS ANDROID!
THAT MEANS THAT NOMAN IS ON TO US...
...AND BACK AGAIN!
HE HAS THE POWER OF INVISIBILITY... SO WE MUST WEAR OUR INFRA-RED GLASSES AT ALL TIMES!
HMMM
LATER, AT THUNDER HEADQUARTERS, KITTEN GIVES HER "REPORT."
...AND THEN I DONATED THE SECRETS TO HIS CAUSE!
O.K., YOU MAY LEAVE!
THEN....
SHE SEEMS TO TRULY BELIEVE THAT SHE DONATED!
YES! LIKE ALL THE OTHER AGENTS WE SENT AFTER IMAGE, KITTEN MUST NOW BE CONTROLLED BY SOME FORM OF POST HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION...A FORM THAT CANNOT BE DETECTED!
5


WHAT CAN WE DO? WE CAN'T STOP MR. IMAGE! SO FAR WE CANNOT LEGALLY PROVE THAT HE'S COMMITTED ANY CRIME!
BESIDES, HOW CAN WE CAPTURE A MAN WHO COULD CONTROL EVEN OUR MINDS?!

NOMAN HEARD THOSE LAST TWO STATEMENTS!
JUST A SECOND! HE DID COMMIT A CRIME WHEN HE HAD HIS "FOLLOWERS" ATTACK ME!

AND I HAVE A PLAN AS TO HOW WE CAN END MR. IMAGE'S "POLITICAL" CAREER!

HAVE THE SCIENCE BOYS REPORT TO MY LAB! THERE'S SOME WORK I WANT DONE ON MY ANDROID BODIES!

THIS IS THE LAST BODY TO FIX!
GET THE OTHERS OUT TO THE TRUCK!

SOON...
THAT'S ALL THE BODIES!
CLIMB IN AND LET'S GET GOING!

MEANTIME...THE INFLUENTIAL VILLAIN INSTRUCTS HIS HENCHMEN!
WE MUST BE ON OUR TOES! IF NOMAN ATTACKS, WE WILL ATTACK HERE! THE LOCATION OF THIS OFFICE HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY PUBLICIZED!
BUT WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE UNSEEN AGENT! HE IS ONLY ONE BEING...THE ONLY BEING I CANNOT CONTROL!

IF HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER AGENTS, I SHALL TURN THEM AGAINST THEIR OWN LEADER!
IF HE COMES ALONE, WE SHALL EASILY DEFEAT HIM!
6

AND OUTSIDE...
PLACE ONE OF MY REINFORCED BODIES AT EACH OF THE DOORWAYS!
NOW GET OUT OF SIGHT AND KEEP OUT... CAN'T RISK HAVING YOU FALL UNDER MR. IMAGE'S POWER! I HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE!
ALL RIGHT, IMAGE! WE'RE COMING IN!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE, NOMAN! WE OUTNUMBER YOU!
DO YOU?
MUST STIFFEN MY LEGS AND LOCK THESE BRACES! THEN THIS BODY WILL REMAIN UPRIGHT!
WHILE I TRANSFER MY MIND....
...ELSEWHERE!
7

AND SO....
A-ANOTHER ONE! S-S-SHOOT BOTH OF 'EM!
MAY I JOIN THE PARTY?

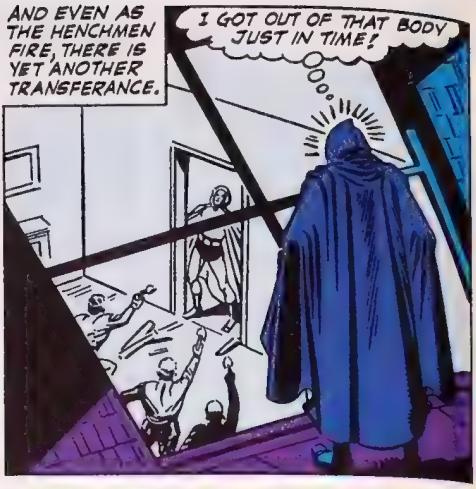
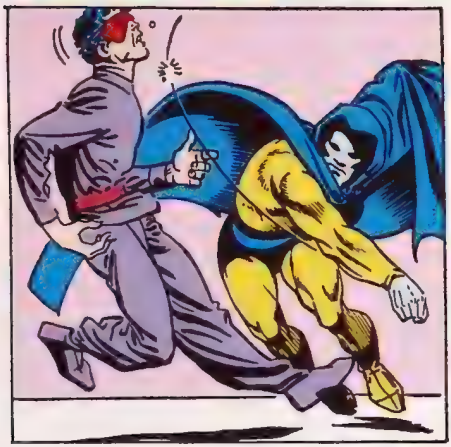
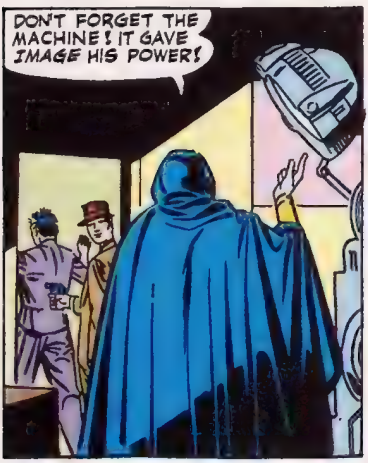

AND EVEN AS THE HENCHMEN FIRE, THERE IS YET ANOTHER TRANSFERANCE.
I GOT OUT OF THAT BODY JUST IN TIME!

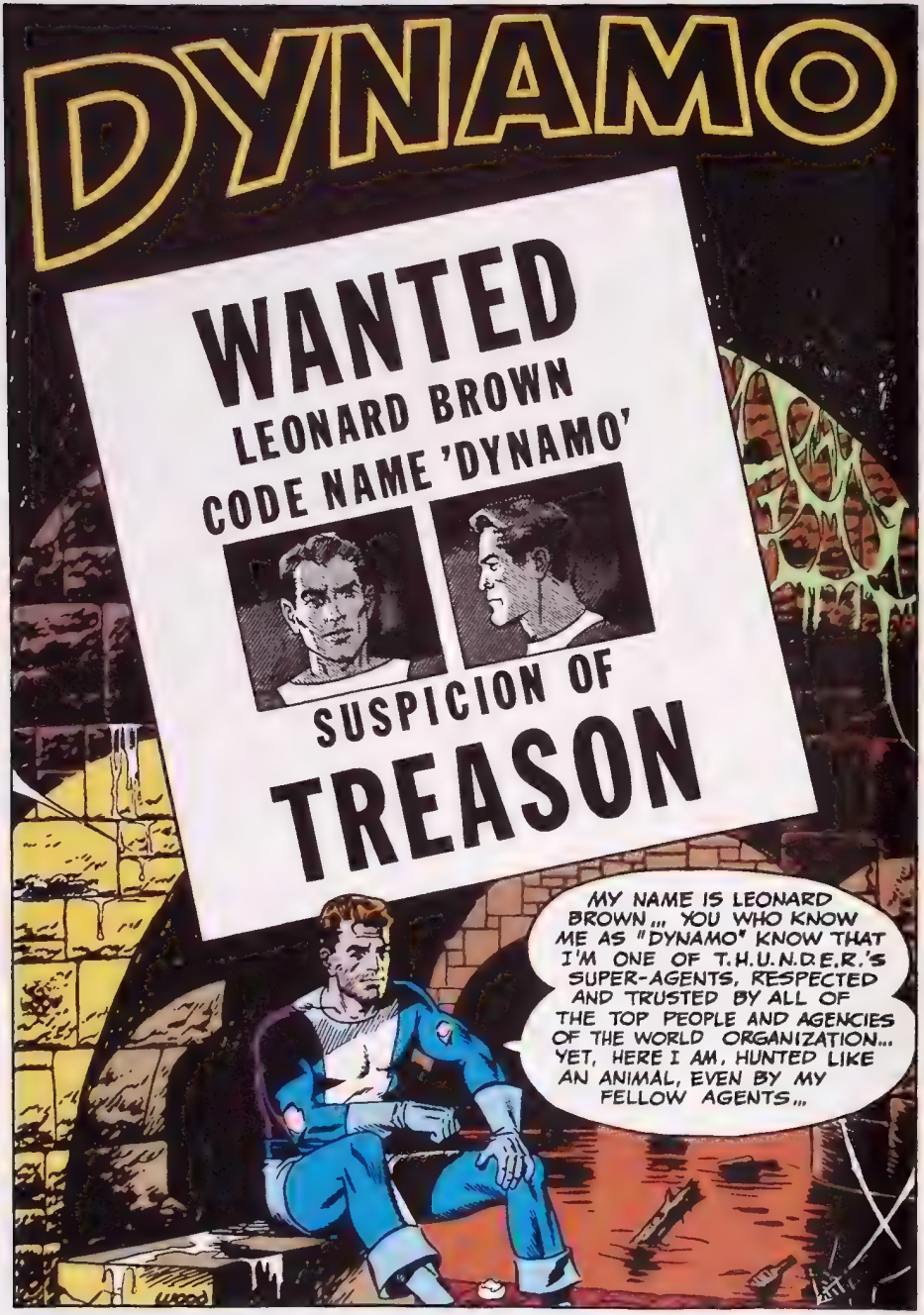
IMAGE IS MAKING AN ESCAPE THROUGH A THIRD DOOR!
WHA...?? NO ONE TOUCHED HIM!
GOOD! NOMAN ISN'T FOLLOWING ME!
THERE'S NO NEED TO FOLLOW!
WHA... ? B-BUT YOU C-CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE!
NO! NOT EVERYWHERE! JUST THE IMPORTANT PLACES!
ONLY WAY TO STOP YOU!
IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT.... GAG IMAGE SO HE CAN'T HYPNOTICALLY CONTROL ANYONE AND LET'S ROUND UP HIS FOLLOWERS!
9

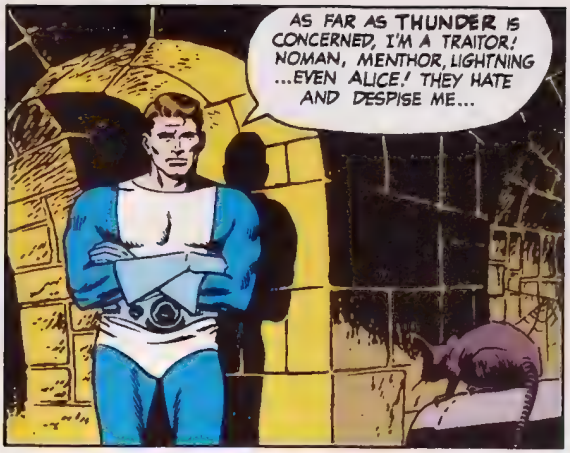




COULD THIS FINAL STATEMENT BE A BIT OF FORESHADOWING ??

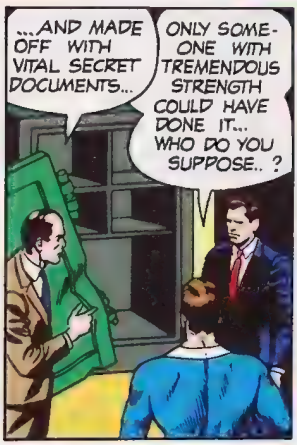
THE HIGHER UNITED NATIONS DEFENSE ENFORCEMENT RESERVES
T.H.U.N.D.E.R.
AGENTS
PDC
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
25¢
AUG
No. 7


DYNAMO
WANTED
LEONARD BROWN
CODE NAME 'DYNAMO'
SUSPICION OF
TREASON
MY NAME IS LEONARD BROWN... YOU WHO KNOW ME AS "DYNAMO" KNOW THAT I'M ONE OF T.H.U.N.D.E.R.'S SUPER-AGENTS, RESPECTED AND TRUSTED BY ALL OF THE TOP PEOPLE AND AGENCIES OF THE WORLD ORGANIZATION... YET, HERE I AM, HUNTED LIKE AN ANIMAL, EVEN BY MY FELLOW AGENTS...


AS FAR AS THUNDER IS CONCERNED, I'M A TRAITOR! NOMAN, MENTHOR, LIGHTNING ...EVEN ALICE! THEY HATE AND DESPISE ME...

"LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT IT FROM THE BEGINNING... ONE DAY AT THUNDER HQ..
GOOD MORNING! IT'S A... HEY! WHAT...?
WE WERE RAIDED LAST NIGHT! THE AGENTS ON GUARD WERE KNOCKED OUT...

WHOEVER DID IT CAME IN THROUGH THAT WALL...
...AND RIPPED THE VAULTS OPEN! LOOKS LIKE HE DID IT WITH HIS BARE HANDS...


...AND MADE OFF WITH VITAL SECRET DOCUMENTS...
ONLY SOMEONE WITH TREMENDOUS STRENGTH COULD HAVE DONE IT... WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE..?

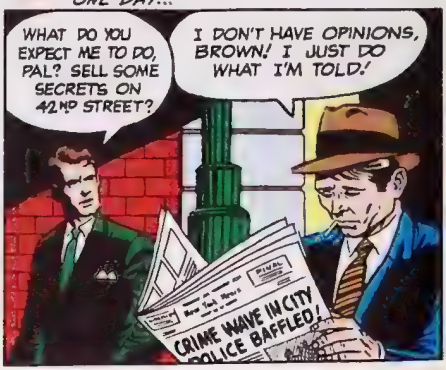
"I COULD FEEL THE SUSPICION AND DISTRUST SUDDENLY, LIKE A PHYSICAL BLOW, AND SOON AFTERWARD...
BROWN, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK! WE HAVE NO DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER...

...BUT ONCE BEFORE, YOU FELL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE FAKE MENTHOR... WE MUST GUARD AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOMETHING SIMILAR IS TAKING PLACE AGAIN...
...SO, AS A FIRST STEP WE'RE ASSIGNING A PLAINCLOTHES AGENT TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU... NOTHING PERSONAL, OF COURSE...
Y-YES, SIR...
2

"THE AGENT THEY PUT ON ME TURNED OUT TO BE A NICE ENOUGH GUY, BUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT NIGHT I HAD A DATE WITH ALICE..."

LET'S GO... I MIGHT AS WELL TRY TO HAVE A DATE IN MACY'S WINDOW!
YOU AND MY SHADOW, EH, MARLOWE?
DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON ME, LEN... I'M JUST DOING A JOB... AND CALL ME PHIL...

"IT WENT ON LIKE THAT FOR A FEW DAYS AND NOTHING HAPPENED, AND I BEGAN TO GET PRETTY EDGY! THEN, ONE DAY..."

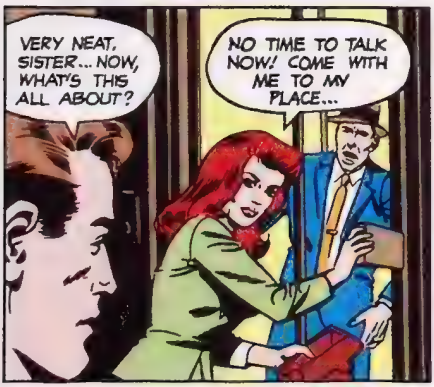

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO, PAL? SELL SOME SECRETS ON 42ND STREET?
I DON'T HAVE OPINIONS, BROWN! I JUST DO WHAT I'M TOLD!
CRIME WAVE IN CITY POLICE BAFFLED!

"THEN I SAW HER! A STRIKING REDHEAD WITH SOMETHING HAUNTINGLY FAMILIAR ABOUT HER...

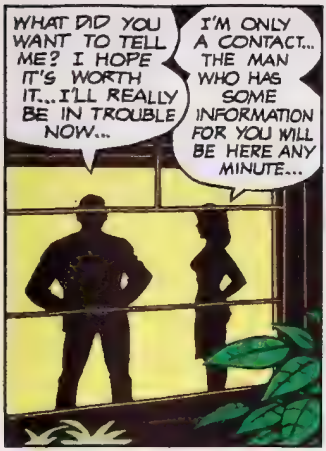
"AS SHE PASSED CLOSE BY, SHE CAUGHT MY EYE AND MURMURED IN A LOW, MUSICAL VOICE...

"I FOLLOWED HER INTO A REVOLVING DOOR, AND WHEN MARLOWE TRIED TO FOLLOW US...

"... SHE TURNED BACK AND STUCK A WEDGE IN THE DOOR, EFFECTIVELY TRAPPING HIM!"

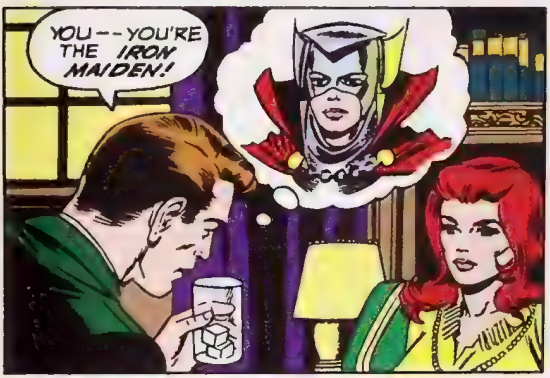


HEY! THIS IS SOME LAYOUT, MISS... WHAT IS YOUR NAME? HAVE I MET YOU...?
MY FRIENDS CALL ME "RUSTY"... AND YES, WE'VE MET... I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME!
3


WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME? I HOPE IT'S WORTH IT... I'LL REALLY BE IN TROUBLE NOW...
I'M ONLY A CONTACT... THE MAN WHO HAS SOME INFORMATION FOR YOU WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE...

"THAT DID IT! SUDDENLY, AN ALARM WENT OFF IN MY MIND, AND ALL THE PIECES FELL INTO PLACE! I GOT UP...

"BUT AS I ROSE, MY LEGS TURNED TO RUBBER, AND AS THE FLOOR RUSHED UP TO MEET ME...



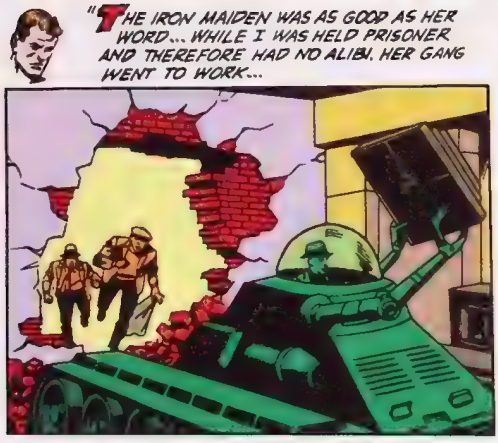
"WHEN I CAME TO, IT WAS AS THOUGH THE RED ARMY HAD MARCHED THROUGH MY MOUTH IN THEIR SOCKS..."

MY ARMOR DEFLECTED THE BULLET! I WAS STUNNED, BUT CAME TO WHILE YOU WERE FIGHTING HIS MEN...
I ESCAPED THROUGH A TUNNEL JUST BEFORE THE EXPLOSION!
BUT ENOUGH OF THAT! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!
4

HERE'S THE 'DOZER... IT DID THE JOB ON THE SAFE AT THUNDER...
YOU WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE, DIDN'T YOU?

...AND HERE'S CHARLIE! REMARKABLE RESEMBLANCE, DON'T YOU THINK? I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND... HE BORROWED YOUR SUIT!
WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO YOU? HE CAN'T USE THE BELT--YOU KNOW THAT!

HE DOESN'T NEED TO... THE 'DOZER WILL DO ALL THE WORK! CHARLIE WILL JUST HANG AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO BE SEEN...AND YOUR NAME WILL BE MUD!
BUT WHY...?


"THE IRON MAIDEN WAS AS GOOD AS HER WORD... WHILE I WAS HELD PRISONER AND THEREFORE HAD NO ALIBI, HER GANG WENT TO WORK...

"...AND EACH TIME MY DOUBLE MADE SURE HE WAS SEEN LEAVING THE SCENE, EVEN DOING A PETER PAN LEAP WITH THE AID OF WIRES!

HERE IT IS, BABY... READ IT AND WEEP!

"WHEN I LOOKED AT THE HEADLINE, I FELT ABSOLUTELY SICK... HOW COULD I EVER CLEAR MYSELF NOW...?
DAILY TRIBUNE
WALL STREET SPECIAL
WEATHER
NEW YORK, MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1966
10 Cents
DYNAMO WANTED FOR TREASON!
Story on Page 1
5

OKAY... YOU'VE SMEARED ME GOOD... BUT WHY?
CAN'T YOU GUESS, HANDSOME? YOU AND I ARE GOING TO TEAM UP! YOU HAVE NO CHOICE NOW... EVERYONE WILL BE AGAINST YOU!

"AND THEN THEY LET ME GO! THEY UNTIED ME AND GAVE ME BACK MY DYNAMO COSTUME...
OKAY... NOW GET OUT!
OKAY, BUT I DON'T GET IT... WHY...?

LOOK! IT'S HIM! THAT GUY DYNAMO!
STAND BACK, EVERYBODY!

STOP! STOP OR I'LL FIRE!
CR-RACK!

WHICH WAY DID HE GO, MIKE?
WELL...

...OFFHAND, I'D SAY HE WENT THAT WAY!

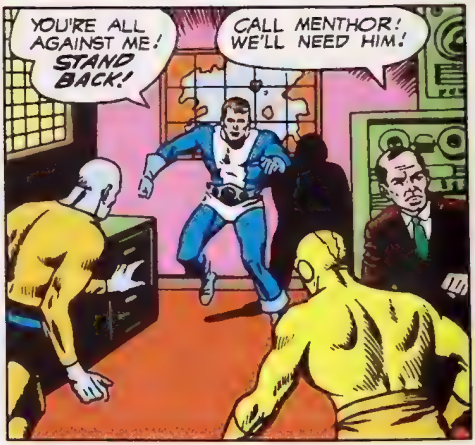
T.H.U.N.D.E.R.! I'LL GO THERE! THEY'LL LISTEN... AND BELIEVE ME!

IT'S HIM! GIVE THE ALARM!
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY, BOYS... I CAME VOLUNTARILY..

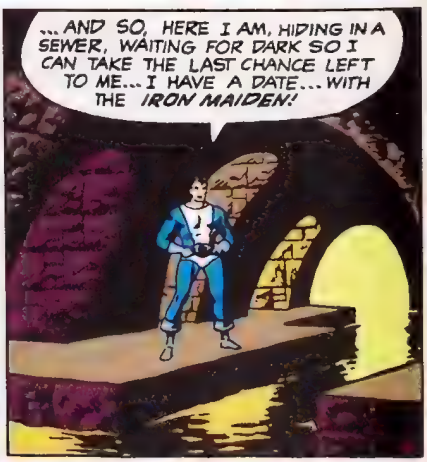
CHIEF, I... I WANT TO EXPLAIN WHAT...
FIRST HAND OVER THE BELT, LEN! THEN WE'LL TALK!

YOU DON'T TRUST ME! LISTEN, HOW CAN I... ALICE! YOU BELIEVE IN ME... DON'T YOU?
OH, LEN! WHY DID YOU DO IT!?

GIVE ME THE BELT, LEN!
HERE COME THE OTHER AGENTS! YOU PRESSED THE PANIC BUTTON! I'LL NEVER CLEAR MYSELF IF I LET YOU TAKE ME!


YOU'RE ALL AGAINST ME! STAND BACK!
CALL MENTHOR! WE'LL NEED HIM!

"I WAS FULL OF BITTERNESS AND RAGE... I WANTED TO LASH OUT AT THEM! AFRAID OF MY OWN VIOLENT FEELINGS, I GOT OUT...FAST!"
WAIT! STOP!


...AND SO, HERE I AM, HIDING IN A SEWER, WAITING FOR DARK SO I CAN TAKE THE LAST CHANCE LEFT TO ME... I HAVE A DATE... WITH THE IRON MAIDEN!

THIS IS THE PLACE... BUT SHE'S CLEARED OUT...
OF COURSE! SHE COULDN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON ME!
THERE HE IS NOW...
BROWN! OVER HERE!
SHE HAD A STAKE-OUT... WATCHING FOR ME TO SHOW UP!
HELLO, IRON M— I MEAN, RUSTY!
HI, LOVER... I TRUST YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT DECISION!
YEAH...I'VE DECIDED TO THROW IN WITH YOU...WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
CAN I TRUST YOU? ARE YOU REALLY SINCERE...OR COULD YOU BE TRYING TO CAPTURE ME TO CLEAR YOUR NAME...?
NO, HONEST...I'M FED UP WITH THUNDER! THOSE DIRTY, ROTTEN INGRATES! AFTER I'VE RISKED MY LIFE TIME AND AGAIN...
I'M ALMOST INCLINED TO BELIEVE YOU... PRETTY ROUGH ON YOU, EH?
YEAH...I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU! THAT WAS SOME NEAT FRAME YOU HUNG ON ME!
YES... SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUT IT WAS NECESSARY... TO SHOW YOU THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS!
YOU HAVE! I'VE DECIDED TO PUT MY POWER TO GOOD USE... FOR MYSELF!
I'M BEGINNING TO LIKE YOU BETTER ALL THE TIME... IT'S YOU AND ME AGAINST THE WORLD!
WAIT A MINUTE... I SAID I'D JOIN YOU...I DIDN'T SAY I LOVE YOU! I CAN HAVE ANY GIRL I WANT!
OHH! YOU MAKE ME SO MAD SOMETIMES... I COULD KILL YOU... OR KISS YOU...
8

I THINK WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH! LET'S MOVE IN!
HEY! IRON MAIDEN! WE'RE BEING RAIDED!
YOU... YOU DID THIS! BUT WHY... AND HOW?
THE BELT HAS A BUILT-IN RADIO... IT GUIDED THEM HERE AND BROADCAST YOUR CONFESSION...
GRAB HIM BEFORE HE CAN TURN THE BELT ON!
I DON'T EVEN NEED MY BELT TO HANDLE THESE...
OW!
HA! DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD ARMOR UNDER OUR CLOTHES, DID YOU, WISE GUY?
KLONG!
YOU MAY HAVE AN IRON SUIT, BUT YOU STILL HAVE A GLASS JAW!
SPLAT!
SHOOT HIM!
TOO LATE! HE'S TURNED THE DIAL!
CRACK!
9

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?! THEY'VE ALL GONE TO SLEEP.. MUST HAVE BEEN BORED WITH MY COMPANY!
TELL ME, RUSTY.. DID YOU REALLY THINK IT WOULD BE THAT EASY TO MAKE ME TURN CROOK?

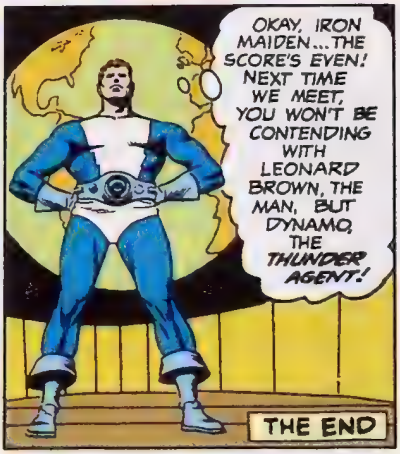
NO...I KNEW IT WAS A GAMBLE WHICH I TOOK DELIBERATELY... IT WOULD'VE BEEN LOVELY IF IT HAD WORKED OUT!
AS FOR MY MEN, IT DOESN'T MATTER... I CAN RECRUIT MORE! AU REVOIR, LEN! YOU'LL NEVER BE RID OF ME...

STOP! STOP OR I'LL SHOOT!
YOU WON'T TAKE ME ALIVE!
Pow!

OOPS!
POW
POW!
ZANG!

SHE'S GONE!
YOU LET HER GET AWAY! YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE!

SHE SAVED YOUR LIFE IN THE STRONGHOLD OF DOCTOR DEATH! THAT WOULDN'T HAVE ANY BEARING ON WHAT JUST HAPPENED, WOULD IT?
I... I TRIPPED, SIR...
ANYWAY, I'M SORRY WE DOUBTED YOU, BROWN... BUT YOU'RE CLEARED, NOW...


OKAY, IRON MAIDEN...THE SCORE'S EVEN! NEXT TIME WE MEET, YOU WON'T BE CONTENDING WITH LEONARD BROWN, THE MAN, BUT DYNAMO, THE THUNDER AGENT!
THE END

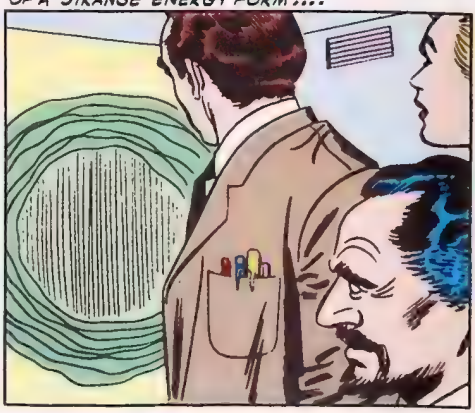
ONCE AGAIN OUR HERO ATTEMPTS TO PUT AN END TO **RICHARD WIZARD'S** VILLAINOUS DEEDS. BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, THE FIENDISH MASTER OF SPACE-WARP-TRAVEL TURNS THE TABLES....

LIGHTNING

"THE WARP WIZARD'S REVENGE"

A NORMAL WORKING DAY AT A GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORY...

...IS INTERRUPTED BY THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF A STRANGE ENERGY FORM....

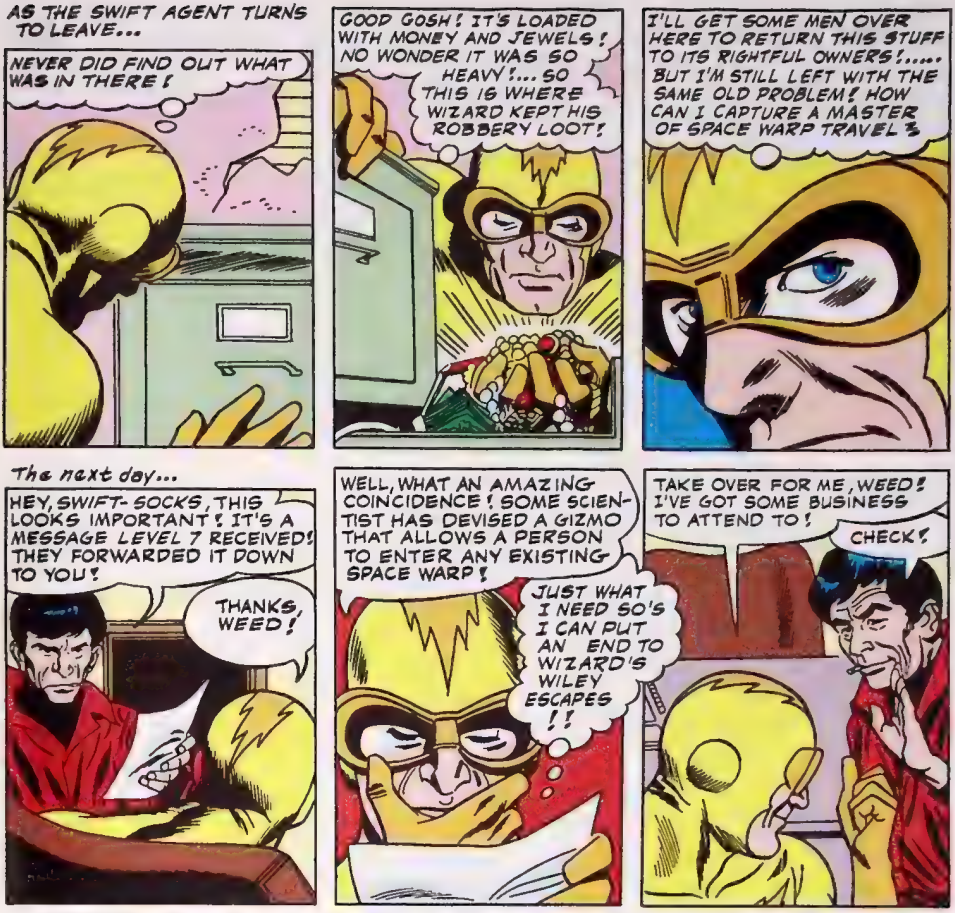


THEN...
LOOK! A FOOT!
YES! AND A LEG, TOO!
W... WHAT IS IT?
ALL RIGHT! DON'T ANYONE MOVE!.. FOR IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY GUESSED, THIS IS A HEIST!
HERE! FILL UP THIS BAG WITH SECRET RESEARCH DOCUMENTS... AND SKIP THE SMALL STUFF, I ONLY WANT THE BIG VALUABLE HUSH-HUSH ONES!
AS THE THIEF CONTINUES TO BABBLE, A COURAGEOUS TECHNICIAN GRABS A MICROPHONE....
BAYSIDE RESEARCH LAB CALLING THUNDER HEAD—QUARTERS! THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
AT THE OTHER END OF THE LINE, WE FIND OUR HERO...
A M-MAN JUST STEPPED OUT OF M-MID AIR.....
... AND HE'S... UH! MY ARM!
NO PHONE CALLS ON MY TIME!
BAMM!

THE MESSAGE HAS STOPPED! BUT THERE'S NO QUESTION AS TO WHO THE INVADER IS!
AS LIGHTNING PREPARES FOR SWIFT DEPARTURE....
THIS MAY BE IT AT LAST.... MY CHANCE TO CAPTURE MY MOST WILEY FOE!
AND SO, SHORTLY, A BLURRED FIGURE APPROACHES THE LAB...
I ONLY HOPE HE'S STILL HERE!
ZOOM!
TAKE GUY GILBERT'S SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING AND LIGHTNING'S PHENOMENAL SPEED ADD THEM TOGETHER AND YOU'VE GOT THE FASTEST WALL-CLIMBER IN THE BUSINESS!
I'M IN LUCK! HE HASN'T LEFT YET!
BUT HE'S ALREADY FORMING AN ESCAPE ROUTE!
LIGHTNING STRIKES!
CRASH!

AS OUR HERO NEARS HIS TARGET...
AH HA! SO IT IS YOU, FAST MAN! BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE! ONCE I STEP THROUGH THIS SPACE WARP I'LL BE MILES AWAY!
NOTE: EVEN NOW, THE WARP WIZARD'S FOOT STANDS FAR FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRIME....
THE BAG HE CARRIED THROUGH THE WARP GIVES ME AN IDEA!....I KNOW FROM BITTER EXPERIENCE THAT I CANNOT ENTER THE WARP ALONE!
BUT THE BAG WENT THROUGH BECAUSE IT WAS IN BODILY CONTACT WITH THE SPACE WARP'S CREATOR!!
SO IF I FORM CONTACT!...
SURE ENOUGH....
I'M THROUGH!
AS THE TWO ENEMIES TUMBLE INTO THE ROOM, WIZARD BREAKS FREE FROM LIGHTNING'S GRIP!
AND...
I'M FAR FROM CAPTURED YET!
MY GLASSES! THEY WERE ACCIDENTALLY PUSHED UP! I CAN'T SEE!
4

AS LIGHTNING RAPIDLY ADJUSTS HIS GOGGLES...
YOU'LL PAY FOR FOLLOWING ME HERE, YOU PEST!
OUR HERO SEES TOO LATE!
CRASH!
THE SWIFT AGENT SHOVES AGAINST THE CABINET...
... SO THAT WITHIN MERE MICRO-SECONDS IT AGAIN STANDS UPRIGHT...
BUT....
I MISSED HIM! AND BECAUSE I DIDN'T FORM CONTACT, I COULDN'T FOLLOW HIM INTO THE WARP!
HE HAS ESCAPED ME AGAIN.... AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO NOW.... FOR I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE MAY BE!
5

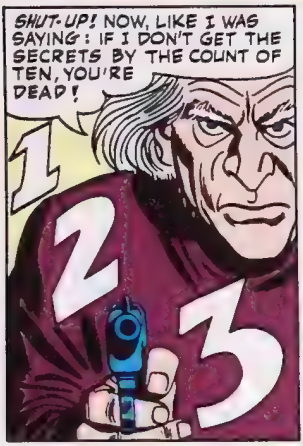

AS THE SWIFT AGENT TURNS TO LEAVE...
NEVER DID FIND OUT WHAT WAS IN THERE!
GOOD GOSH! IT'S LOADED WITH MONEY AND JEWELS! NO WONDER IT WAS SO HEAVY!... SO THIS IS WHERE WIZARD KEPT HIS ROBBERY LOOT!
I'LL GET SOME MEN OVER HERE TO RETURN THIS STUFF TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS!..... BUT I'M STILL LEFT WITH THE SAME OLD PROBLEM! HOW CAN I CAPTURE A MASTER OF SPACE WARP TRAVEL?
The next day...
HEY, SWIFT-SOCKS, THIS LOOKS IMPORTANT! IT'S A MESSAGE LEVEL 7 RECEIVED! THEY FORWARDED IT DOWN TO YOU!
THANKS, WEED!
WELL, WHAT AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE! SOME SCIENTIST HAS DEVISED A GIZMO THAT ALLOWS A PERSON TO ENTER ANY EXISTING SPACE WARP!
JUST WHAT I NEED SO'S I CAN PUT AN END TO WIZARD'S WILEY ESCAPES!!
TAKE OVER FOR ME, WEED! I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!
CHECK!
SOON...
WOW! THESE SCIENTISTS SURE LIVE IN PLUSH PLACES NOWADAYS!
THUS...
THIS IS IT!
A BELT?
YES! IF YOU PRESS THE RED BUTTON YOUR BODY WILL BE SURROUNDED BY AN AURA WHICH WILL ALLOW YOU TO PASS THROUGH WARPS!

Hmmm...
DON'T PRESS IT NOW!!
AHEM... THE AURA ALSO HAS A WAY OF...
... SHATTERING GLASS!
OH... I SEE!
WELL, SORRY I CAN'T STICK AROUND AND CHAT, DOC, BUT I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO! I PLAN TO PUT THIS BELT TO GOOD USE, IMMEDIATELY!!
ONCE LIGHTNING IS OUT OF SIGHT....
ALL RIGHT! HE'S GONE! YOU CAN COME OUT NOW!
THAT WAS A GOOD PERFORMANCE, DOC! AND, THEREFOR, I'LL LET YOUR DAUGHTER LIVE!
AND MAY I THANK YOU BOTH! YOU HAVE HELPED ME IMMENSELY....IN THIS PLAN TO GET RID OF A MOST PERSISTENT PEST!
YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED! NOW GET OUT!!
I PLAN TO DO JUST THAT... FOR I WISH TO MAKE SURE THAT LIGHTNING USES MY SPECIALLY PREPARED BELT!
7

MEANWHILE, AS OUR HERO RUSHES BACK TOWARD THE CITY.
WHA...? THAT LOOKS LIKE A CIRCLE OF FORCE!!
IT IS A CIRCLE OF FORCE! ....COMPLETE WITH WARP WIZARD!
HI THERE FASTMAN! NOW TO TAUNT HIM INTO USING HIS BELT!
SO WE MEET AGAIN! BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! I CAN BE OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU MOVE ONE MUSCLE!
BUT NOT THIS TIME, WARPED ONE! I'M PREPARED FOR YOU NOW!
IT WORKED! HE'S PUSHING THE BUTTON!
THEN...
OHHH!!
DON'T FRET, FASTMAN! IT WON'T KILL YOU! BUT THE FLAK WILL SHATTER YOUR LEG BONES!
BOOM!
AS THE DAZED AGENT FALLS....
AND THUS ENDS THE MEDDLESOME CAREER OF THUNDER AGENT, LIGHTNING!
... FOR WITHOUT THE USE OF YOUR LEGS, YOU'RE NOTHING!
AND NOW, WITH HIM OUT OF THE WAY, I'M OFF TO THUNDER HQ TO PERPETRATE THE GREATEST ROBBERY EVER CONCEIVED!
8

THUS...
ALL RIGHT, BUSTER! HAND OVER EVERY SECRET DOCUMENT WITHIN YOUR REACH!
COOL IT, MAN! YOU'RE NOT LAYING YOUR PAWS ON ANY-THING!

AND SO, EVEN THOUGH OUR HERO HAS FALLEN, THE BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL MUST CONTINUE!
LISTEN, I'M GOING TO COUNT TO TEN...
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN MANAGE


SHUT-UP! NOW, LIKE I WAS SAYING: IF I DON'T GET THE SECRETS BY THE COUNT OF TEN, YOU'RE DEAD!
1
2
3

MY ONLY HOPE IS A SLIM ONE... THAT SOME FELLOW AGENT IS ON HIS WAY TO THIS OFFICE TO SEE LIGHTNING!
4
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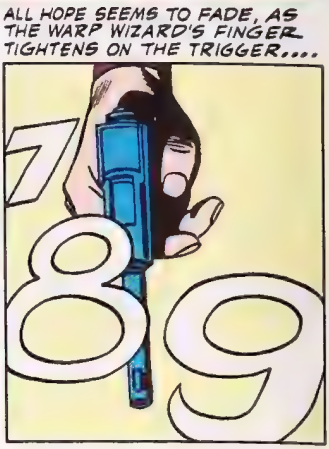
ALL HOPE SEEMS TO FADE, AS THE WARP WIZARD'S FINGER TIGHTENS ON THE TRIGGER....
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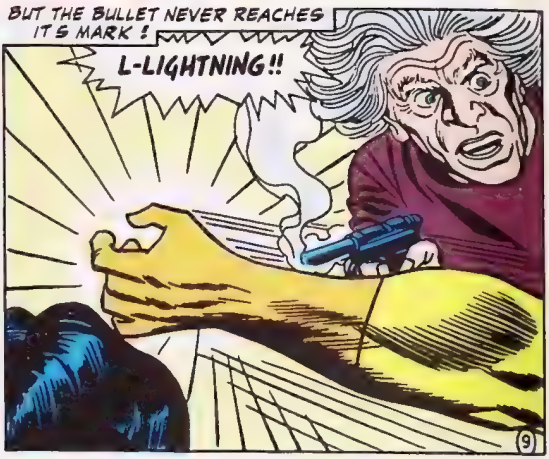
AND THEN...
10
BLAM!


BUT THE BULLET NEVER REACHES IT'S MARK!
L-LIGHTNING!!
9

AS THE WARP WIZARD GAPES, LIGHTNING GRABS HIS GUN!
B-BUT...TH-THE BELT....
IT WAS AN INGENIOUS PLAN, WARP WIZARD, BUT YOU FAILED TO CONSIDER ONE THING!
THIS UNIFORM WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT ME FROM WIND EROSION ALSO WORKS WELL AGAINST FLAK!
I WAS PRETTY SHAKEN UP, BUT I WASN'T HURT!
BUT WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG TO MAKE THE SCENE?
I MADE A SHORT STOP ALONG THE WAY! I JUST HAPPENED TO RUN ACROSS THE WIZARD'S OTHER FORCE CIRCLE....
THIS IS MY ONE CHANCE! WHILE THEY'RE GABBING, I'LL ESCAPE!
... SO I DROVE AN ARMORED TRUCK UP ALONG SIDE OF IT!
CLANG!
NOW, WHILE HE'S UNCONSCIOUS, WE'D BETTER FIGURE A WAY OF KEEPING THIS SLIPPERY LITTLE CUSTOMER UNDER WRAPS!
BUT SUDDENLY...
UH!
SWIFT—SOCKS!
HE'S BLACKED OUT! SO...HE WAS HIDING THE TRUTH...IN ORDER TO SHAKE THE WIZARD'S CONFIDENCE! HE WAS HURT IN THE EXPLOSION!
NEXT ISSUE: EVEN WHILE LIGHTNING RECUPERATES, A NEW DARINGLY DIFFERENT VILLAIN REARS HIS UGLY HEAD!
The End

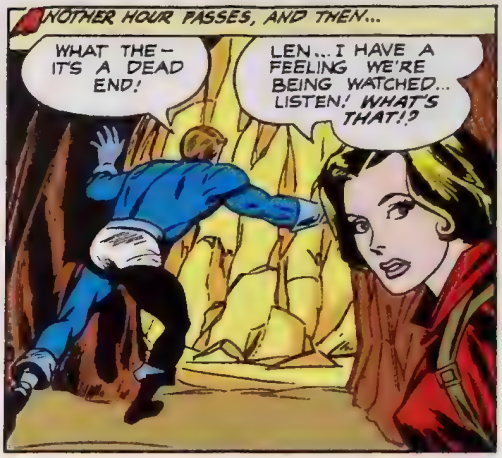
EVER SINCE THE FIRST WARLORD MADE HIS BID FOR WORLD CONQUEST, THE THUNDER AGENTS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO LOCATE THE UNDERGROUND CITADEL OF THE SUBTERRANEANS, BUT IN VAIN! A SERIES OF SAVAGE BATTLES HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE ENDLESS LABYRINTH OF TUNNELS UNDER THE SURFACE, BUT THUNDER IS NO CLOSER TO THEIR OBJECTIVE... UNTIL A PLAN IS FORMED TO FORCE THE ISSUE AND BRING THE WARLORDS TO A

"SUBTERRANEAN SHOWDOWN"

AT A TOP-SECRET GOVERNMENT LAB...
BROWN, MEET DOCTOR STEINMETZ... HE IS THE KEY TO OUR PLAN... SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO ABDUCT HIM, WE'RE GOING TO SEE THAT ONE SUCCEEDS!
WHAT?! YOU MUST BE KIDDING... HE'S THE MOST VALUABLE MAN IN THE WORLD!
PRECISELY WHY HE'S TO BE THE BAIT FOR OUR TRAP.. OR RATHER, HIS DOUBLE WILL BE! LOOK!
HELLO, LEN! HOW DO I LOOK?
I MUST BE SEEING THINGS... THERE ARE TWO OF YOU! HEY! ARE YOU...?
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S NOMAN! WE GOT THE IDEA FROM THE "MASTER MIND" AND MADE A SPECIAL NOMAN BODY...
WHICH IS AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF DOCTOR STEINMETZ, BUT HAS NOMAN'S BRAIN AND NERVOUS SYSTEM!
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY FOR A WHILE...
NOW WE WAIT...THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO THE WARLORDS...
THE NEXT MOVE IS NOT LONG IN COMING...
HIT THEM FAST... BUT BE CAREFUL! NO HARM MUST COME TO THE DOCTOR...
READY WITH THE GAS GUNS? ALL RIGHT... LET'S GO!
GAS! THIS IS IT! TIME FOR ME TO SWITCH...
...TO THUNDER HQ! THEY'LL THINK I'M UNCONSCIOUS FROM THE GAS...
SOUND THE ALARM! THE ATTACK HAS BEGUN! LET'S MOVE OUT!
CONDITION RED! ALL AGENTS SCRAMBLE! START THE ENGINES!

THERE IT IS! LOOKS DESERTED! THEY MUST HAVE THE DOCTOR... I MEAN NOMAN!
LOOK! THAT HOLE NEAR THE LAB... THEY LEFT IN SUCH A HURRY THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FILL IT IN BEHIND THEM!
THERE IT IS...THE GATEWAY TO THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD! CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT...
KEEP THOSE RADIO DIRECTION FINDERS TUNED TO THE TRANSMISSION FROM THE ANDROID'S SET! READY? LET'S GO!
FOR HOURS THEY DESCEND EVER DEEPER INTO THE EARTH...
STAY CLOSE TO ME, DYNAMO! THIS PLACE FRIGHTENS ME...
YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED BEHIND, KITTEN! EVEN IF YOU DO KNOW YOUR BUSINESS, THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A GIRL...
THIS IS THE TEN-MILE LEVEL! STILL NO SIGN OF THEM!
DON'T BE IMPATIENT... THEY MAY BE JUST AROUND THE CORNER...
...OR TEN MILES DEEPER! HEY! WHAT'S UP?
THE SIGNAL'S STOPPED! THEY MUST HAVE FOUND THE TRANSMITTER!
LOOK! THE TUNNEL BRANCHES OFF HERE! NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
WE SPLIT UP! WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO? I'LL TAKE THE LEFT ONE ... THE REST OF YOU...
I WANT TO GO WITH YOU, LEN!

OKAY... I'LL TAKE KITTEN WITH ME... SHE'LL MAINTAIN RADIO CONTACT!
RIGHT! WE'LL KEEP IN TOUCH... WELL, GOOD LUCK!


ANOTHER HOUR PASSES, AND THEN...
WHAT THE— IT'S A DEAD END!
LEN... I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE BEING WATCHED... LISTEN! WHAT'S THAT!?

A CAVE-IN! WE'RE TRAPPED!

CALL THE OTHERS, KITTEN... THIS MUST MEAN WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!
KITTEN CALLING NOMAN... DYNAMO AND I ARE TRAPPED BETWEEN A CAVE-IN AND A DEAD END... OVER!

THIS IS NOMAN... STAY PUT! WE'LL TRY TO DIG THROUGH TO YOU... I JUST SWITCHED OVER TO THE 'DOCTOR STEINMETZ' BODY AND IT'S IN A WARLORD CITY, SO THEY CAN'T BE TOO FAR AHEAD!

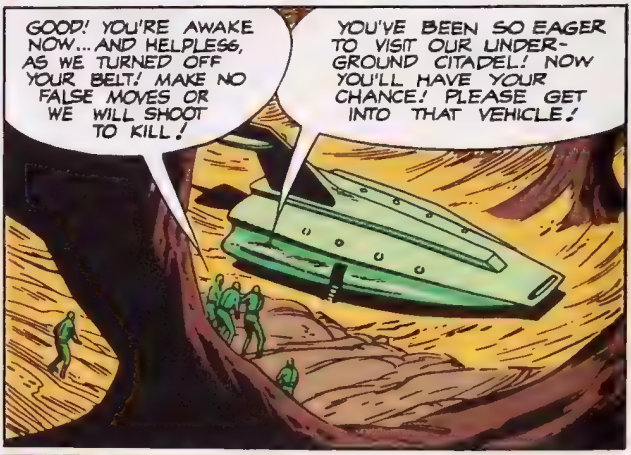
GIVE ME THAT RADIO, KITTEN!
LISTEN, NOMAN... THIS MAY BE A TRAP SO YOU JUST HANG ON... I'LL TRY TO BREAK THROUGH THE WALL AHEAD!

DYNAMO... WAIT! LISTEN! I DON'T THINK...
YOU TALK TO HIM, BABY... I'M GOING TO GIVE IT A TRY! HERE GOES...

WHAM!
OH NO! HELP!

THAT LOOKS LIKE... IT IS! DYNAMO! HE MUST HAVE FALLEN THROUGH SEVERAL LEVELS!

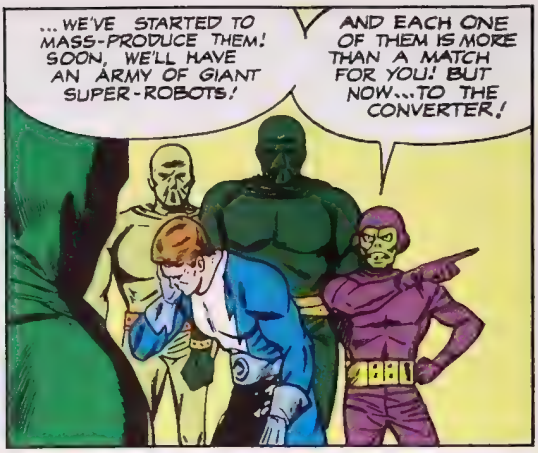
REMOVE HIS BELT BEFORE HE RECOVERS!
NO- WAIT! IT MAY BE BOOBY TRAPPED! IT DESTROYED ONE OF OUR AGENTS!


GOOD! YOU'RE AWAKE NOW... AND HELPLESS, AS WE TURNED OFF YOUR BELT! MAKE NO FALSE MOVES OR WE WILL SHOOT TO KILL!
YOU'VE BEEN SO EAGER TO VISIT OUR UNDER-GROUND CITADEL! NOW YOU'LL HAVE YOUR CHANCE! PLEASE GET INTO THAT VEHICLE!

THE WARLORDS' VEHICLES ROAR THROUGH THE CAVES AT BREAKNECK SPEED...
THERE IT IS... JUST AHEAD!

...UNTIL THEY COME UPON A SIGHT NEVER BEFORE SEEN BY A SURFACE MAN...
...LIKE, WOW!

THE SUBTERRANEAN WARLORD CITY...
HERE IS THE ONE CALLED DYNAMO, O MIGHTY OVERLORD! WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH HIM?
DYNAMO! WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER... YOUR LIFE, IF YOU DECIDE TO JOIN US!
MAYBE I CAN OUTWIT THEM...
I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE MUCH CHOICE, DO I?
THAT IS MORE LIKE IT... OF COURSE, YOU REALIZE WE WILL HAVE TO TURN YOU INTO A ZOMBIE...
WHAT?! WHY, YOU DIRTY...
GO AHEAD, FOOL! TURN YOUR BELT ON! YOU MAY WONDER WHY WE LET YOU KEEP IT...
ACTIVATE THE ROBOTS!

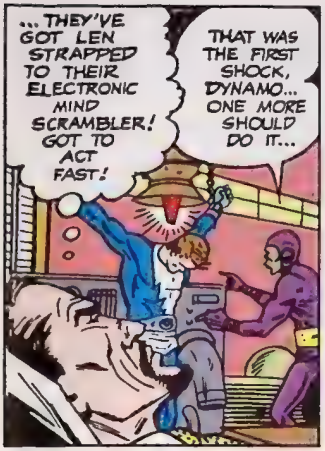

...WE'VE STARTED TO MASS-PRODUCE THEM! SOON, WE'LL HAVE AN ARMY OF GIANT SUPER-ROBOTS!
AND EACH ONE OF THEM IS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR YOU! BUT NOW...TO THE CONVERTER!

THIS MACHINE WILL GIVE YOU A SHOCK TREATMENT WHICH WILL DESTROY YOUR IDENTITY...YOU WILL BE ABLE TO REASON, TO ACT, BUT YOU WILL BELONG TO US!

SOMETIMES WE FAIL... AS WITH THE DOCTOR THERE... HE WAS NOT ABLE TO STAND THE SHOCK!
WHY, IT'S NOMAN'S "DR. STEINMETZ" ANDROID... THEY THINK HE'S DEAD! I HOPE HE CAN STILL USE THAT BODY...

WHILE ABOVE, THE OTHER THUNDER AGENTS HAVE DUG THROUGH TO KITTEN...

I'VE BEEN SWITCHING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN BODIES...AS WE GET CLOSER IT TAKES A SPLIT-SECOND LESS EACH TIME...
AND NOW IT HAPPENS ALMOST INSTANTLY! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!


...THEY'VE GOT LEN STRAPPED TO THEIR ELECTRONIC MIND SCRAMBLER! GOT TO ACT FAST!
THAT WAS THE FIRST SHOCK, DYNAMO... ONE MORE SHOULD DO IT...

BUT WHAT...? THERE'S JUST ONE CHANCE FOR ALL OF US...
HERE WE GO AGAIN... WHAT—! THE DOCTOR IS ALIVE! STOP!

NOMAN! I KNEW YOU'D SAVE ME!
STOP HIM! KILL HIM, YOU FOOLS!

AS BODY RIDDLED, THE GALLANT ANDROID MAKES HIS WAY TO DYNAMO... AND TURNS THE CURRENT ON FULL!
NOMAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'LL KILL ME!
TRUST ME, LEN...

...AND SWITCHES BACK TO THE AGENTS IN THE TUNNEL JUST IN TIME...
LET'S GO! ATTACK!
THUNDER AGENTS! SEND IN THE DYNAVACS!

WHY... I'M NOT DEAD! I'M...I'M GETTING STRONGER!
BUT WHAT CAN I DO? I CAN'T COPE WITH ALL THOSE ROBOTS...

AS DYNAMO BREAKS FREE, A STRANGE THING OCCURS...
WELL, I'LL BE...!
CRRRAK

AS THE DYNAVAC ROBOTS RUSH IN, THEY ARE MET BY BOLTS OF LIGHTNING...
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME? I'M LIKE A HUMAN STORAGE BATTERY...
THE AGENTS! THEY'RE RUSHING IN... THEY'LL BE KILLED!
STAY BACK-ALL OF YOU! BACK IN THE TUNNEL!
WITH HIS LAST CHARGE OF ENERGY, DYNAMO BRINGS DOWN THE ROOF...
ZZAP!
CRRAAK

...AND, WITH A LAST EFFORT...
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT THIS, PAL...
... HE MANAGES TO SHIELD THE SUBTERRANEAN WARLORD!
...BUT YOU AND I HAVE A DATE... AT THUNDER HEADQUARTERS!
WOW! WHAT A MESS...WHERE'S DYNAMO? OH... THERE HE COMES AND HE'S GOT ONE OF 'EM!
HI! THAT WAS FUN! LET'S DO IT AGAIN!
I DON'T THINK MY NERVES COULD STAND IT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WELL, WE'VE MANAGED TO LOCATE AND DESTROY THEIR CITY, BUT WE STILL HAVE THEIR 'OVERLORD' TO CONTEND WITH...
YEAH...HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS COULD BE ANYWHERE! WELL, THAT'S WHERE JUNIOR, HERE, WILL COME IN HANDY...
I'LL TELL YOU NOTHING, SURFACE DOG!
BY THE WAY, NOMAN... DID YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU WERE DOING WHEN YOU THREW THAT SWITCH?
YOU FORGET... I WAS... I AM DOCTOR ANTHONY DUNN, ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST PHYSICISTS...
I CALCULATED THE EFFECT OF THE BELT, THE RESISTANCE TO ELECTRIC CURRENT YOUR BODY HAS DEVELOPED, AND... IT'S STRANGE, BUT A WEAKER CHARGE WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU, BUT A TREMENDOUS ONE PROVIDED ITS OWN SAFETY AREA, A MAGNETIC CORE OF INSULATION...
BUT... WERE YOU SURE... WHAT IF THE CHARGE WEREN'T STRONG ENOUGH?
THAT WAS THE CHANCE WE HAD TO TAKE... I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND MAKING A HABIT OF IT!
NEXT ISSUE... FINAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE SUBTERRANEANS!

THE IRON MAIDEN

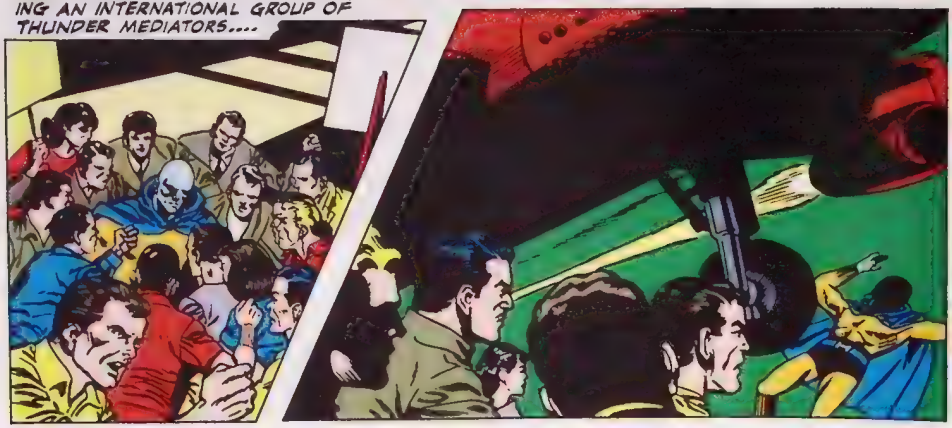
NAME, AGE, PLACE OF ORIGIN: ALL UNKOWN, CALLED "RUSTY"
HEIGHT: APPROXIMATELY 5'6" WEIGHT: APPROXIMATELY 120
EYES: BLUE HAIR: RED COMPLEXION: FAIR
RESUME': THE IRON MAIDEN FIRST APPEARED AS AN AGENT FOR THE NOW DECEASED "WARLORD" THE ORIGINAL SUB-TERRAN INVADER, CLAD IN ARMOR AND HEADING A DETACHMENT OF MEN IN ARMORED SUITS. LATER SHE RETURNED AS AN ACCOMPLICE OF "DOCTOR DEATH," A SINISTER FIGURE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AT PRESENT SHE SEEMS TO BE OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY....

MANKIND HAS LONG DREAMED OF IMMORTALITY.... BUT WOULD THIS GIFT BE WORTH THE PRICE OF MAN'S HUMANITY? THAT'S THE PERSONAL QUESTION **NOMAN** MUST ANSWER, AND THE FUTURE OF **THUNDER** DEPENDS ON HIS DECISION....

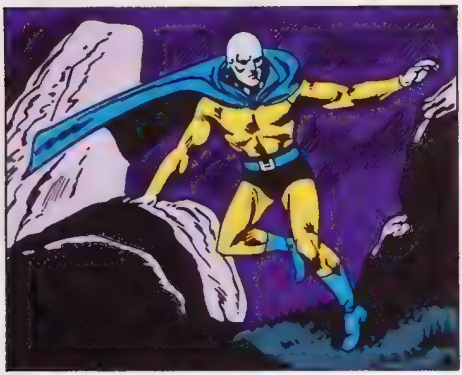
TO BE OR NOT TO BE!

SPECIAL MISSION: BRAZIL! NOMAN, GUARDING AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF THUNDER MEDIATORS....

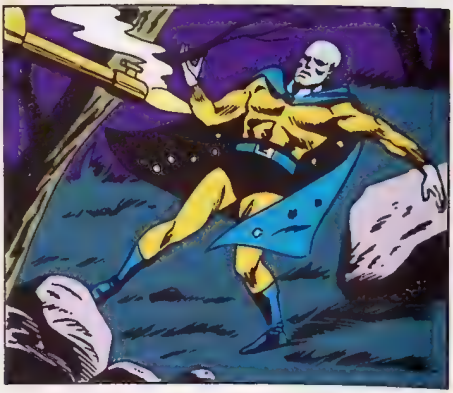
...IS KILLED DURING A WILD DEMONSTRATION!



SPECIAL MISSION: VIET NAM! RETURNING FROM RECONNAISSANCE FROM BEHIND ENEMY LINES...

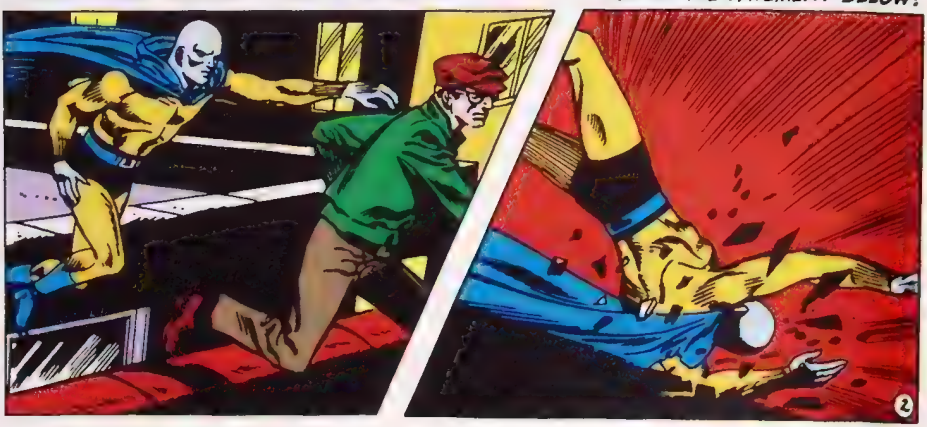


NOMAN IS CUT DOWN BY A SPRAY OF MACHINE GUN FIRE!....



SPECIAL MISSION: WASHINGTON! NOMAN MISCALCULATES A JUMP WHILE CHASING A SUSPECTED SPY...

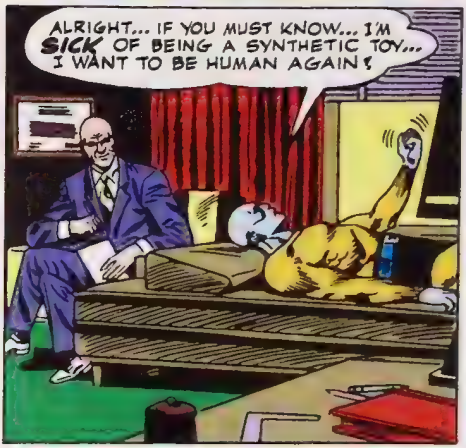
AND FALLS TO HIS DESTRUCTION ON THE PAVEMENT BELOW!



THIS IS TOO MUCH! NOMAN IS LOSING ANDROIDS AT A FANTASTIC RATE!
CALL HIM IN... WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT!

WE'VE FOUND YOU PERFECTLY SOUND...
SO WHAT'S WRONG?!

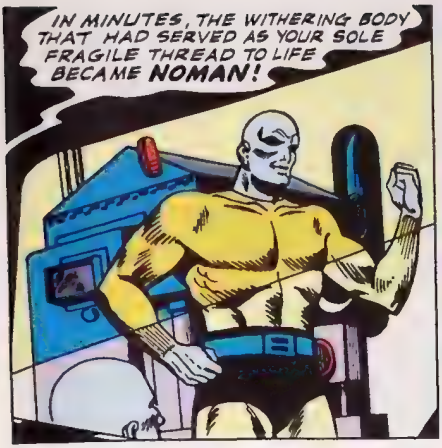
NOTHING'S WRONG! I'M JUST TIRED... I NEED A REST!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... WE'D BETTER LET DR. PASCHKE TALK TO HIM...


ALRIGHT... IF YOU MUST KNOW... I'M SICK OF BEING A SYNTHETIC TOY... I WANT TO BE HUMAN AGAIN!

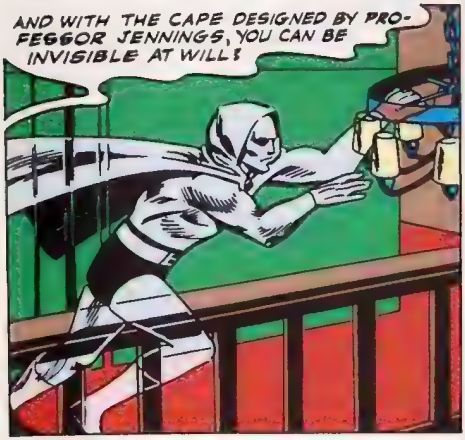
BUT WHY?!
IT'S NO SNAP DECISION.... I'VE BEEN REGRETTING EVERYTHING SINCE WEST BERLIN, LAST SUMMER...

I MET A GIRL THERE.....IS THAT SO ABSURD?! A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE... SHE WAS FRIENDLY AND UNDERSTANDING....
3

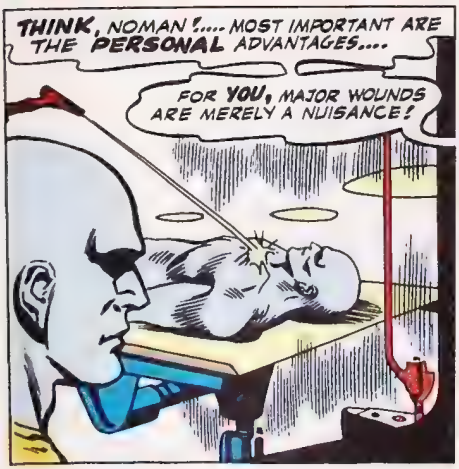
SHE KNEW I WAS MERELY ONE ANDROID OF MANY, SHARING THE MIND OF A MAN LONG DEAD.... SHE WAS JUST BEING KIND.... BUT I.... I FELL IN LOVE....
...AND I CAN'T FORGET HER... I CAN'T!
I RESIGN FROM THUNDER ... THE DEVIL WITH YOU!
NOMAN AWAKES TO FIND HIMSELF A PRISONER!
WE'VE INACTIVATED ALL ANDROIDS EXCEPT THIS ONE... YOU'VE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SEE THIS SIMULATED PROJECTION...
.... DR. DUNN WORKED FOR MANY YEARS, ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS, ON THE INTRICACIES OF YOUR HOUSING AND SENSORY UNITS...
I KNOW ALL THIS FAR BETTER THAN YOU EVER COULD! AFTER ALL, I AM DR. DUNN.... I POSSESS HIS EVERY MEMORY!
EXACTLY! BUT DO YOU RECALL THAT FINAL HURTLE TO TRANSFER THE MIND OF A LIVING MAN INTO THEIR CREATION?!
... BECAUSE YOU INSISTED ON BEING THAT MAN!


IN MINUTES, THE WITHERING BODY THAT HAD SERVED AS YOUR SOLE FRAGILE THREAD TO LIFE BECAME NOMAN!

AN ALMOST INDESTRUCTIBLE ANDROID OF INCREDIBLE STRENGTH!

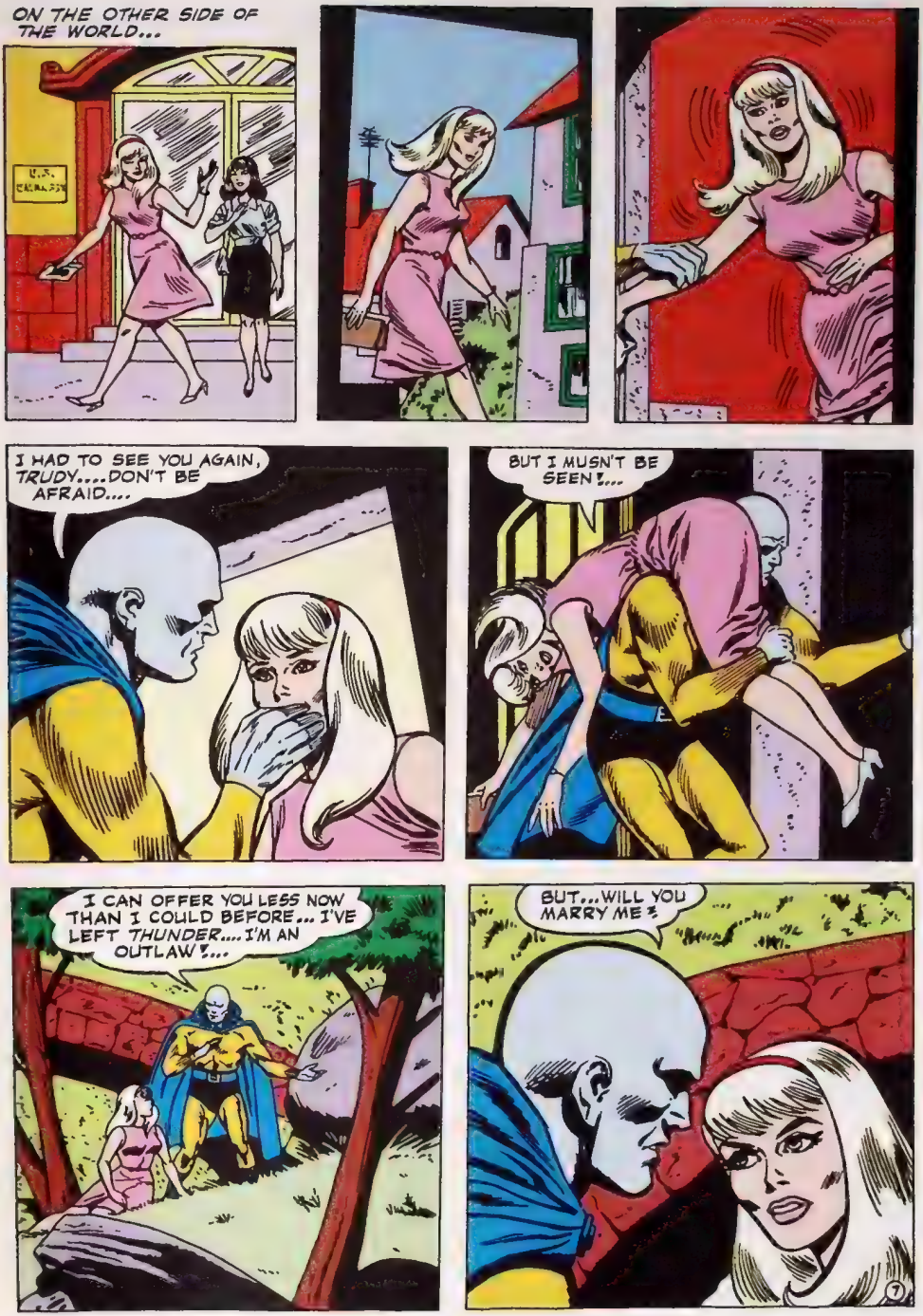

AND WITH THE CAPE DESIGNED BY PROFESSOR JENNINGS, YOU CAN BE INVISIBLE AT WILL!

WOULD YOU GIVE ALL THAT UP NOW!??
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO.... BRAINWASH ME WITH SOME KIND OF PUBLIC RELATIONS PROPAGANDA?!?!

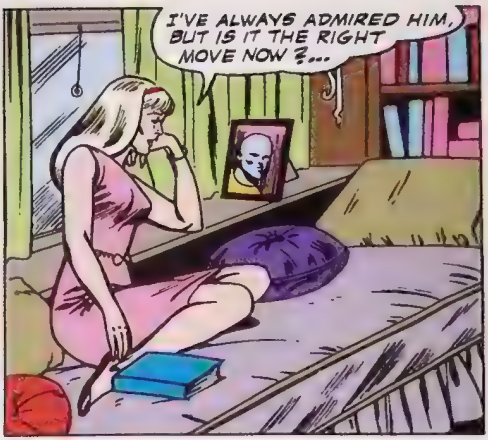

THINK, NOMAN!.... MOST IMPORTANT ARE THE PERSONAL ADVANTAGES....
FOR YOU, MAJOR WOUNDS ARE MERELY A NUISANCE!

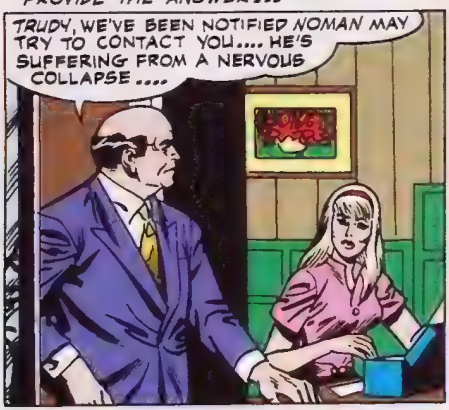
... AND WITH UNLIMITED TIME TO PROGRAM DUNN'S BRAIN, YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING THE MOST INTELLIGENT BEING ON EARTH!...

I KNOW.... I KNOW... BUT I KNOW HOW MISTAKEN I WAS....
ARE YOU SURE?!! LOOK AT YOURSELF AS YOU WERE BEFORE THE TRANSFORMATION!
AND FEEL THE WAY YOU FELT THEN.... BENT WITH THE SORE AND SPENT FLESH AND BONE BODY OF A HUMAN BEING...
ENOUGH! AT LEAST I LIVED IN MY NATURAL STATE... AS ALL MEN SHOULD!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH TORMENT!
AND THUNDER WILL HAVE TO GET ALONG WITHOUT ME!...
WE MUST STOP HIM! HE'S DISPLAYED MARKED SUICIDAL TENDENCIES IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS!....
WHERE COULD HE BE HEADED?...
I'D GUESS WEST GERMANY, IF HE'S AS DISTURBED AS I SUSPECT!...
WHAT IF HE DOES SOMETHING DESPERATE?..... THOSE ANDROIDS ARE WORTH MILLIONS!....
6


ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD...
I HAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, TRUDY....DON'T BE AFRAID....
BUT I MUSN'T BE SEEN!....
I CAN OFFER YOU LESS NOW THAN I COULD BEFORE... I'VE LEFT THUNDER.... I'M AN OUTLAW!...
BUT...WILL YOU MARRY ME?

I'LL GIVE YOU MY ANSWER TOMORROW, NOMAN.... I HAVE TO THINK...
HE'S ACTING SO STRANGELY....

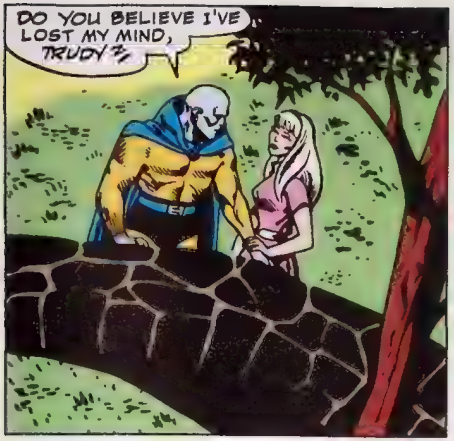

I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED HIM, BUT IS IT THE RIGHT MOVE NOW?...


THE NEXT MORNING, CIRCUMSTANCES PROVIDE THE ANSWER...
TRUDY, WE'VE BEEN NOTIFIED NOMAN MAY TRY TO CONTACT YOU.... HE'S SUFFERING FROM A NERVOUS COLLAPSE....

IT'S IMPERATIVE THEY GET HIM BACK IN SHAPE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.... A VITAL MISSION DEPENDS ON IT!

WHAT MISSION?
IT'S TOP SECRET.... SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE SPACE AGENCY...

THAT'S A TRICK... THEY'RE TRYING TO USE HER AGAINST ME!...
8



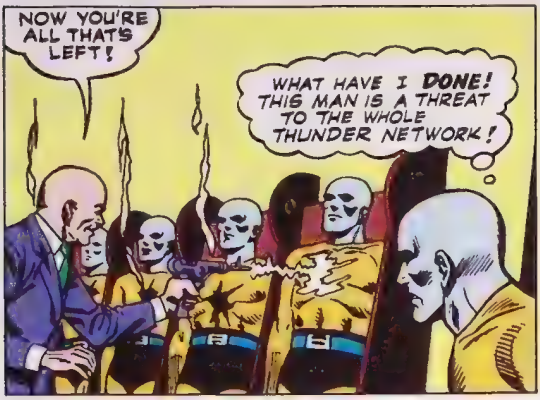
THERE ARE OTHER AGENTS BESIDES ME!
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO THINK...WILL YOU MARRY ME OR NOT?
I'M SORRY, NOMAN... YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY FROM YOUR WHOLE LIFE....

NOMAN RECEIVES AN ABRUBT MESSAGE THROUGH THE RADIO IN HIS BRAINPLATE...

AFTER TRANSFERRING BACK TO AN ANDROID AT THUNDER H.Q....

WHAT'S YOUR GAME, PASCHKE?
THE GOVERNMENT HAS EXPLOITED YOU! I'LL HELP YOU DESTROY YOUR SPARES AND VANISH WHERE THEY'LL NEVER FIND YOU!
9

THE UNSEEN AGENT IS PASSIVE UNTIL HE FACES HIS OWN EXTINCTION!..

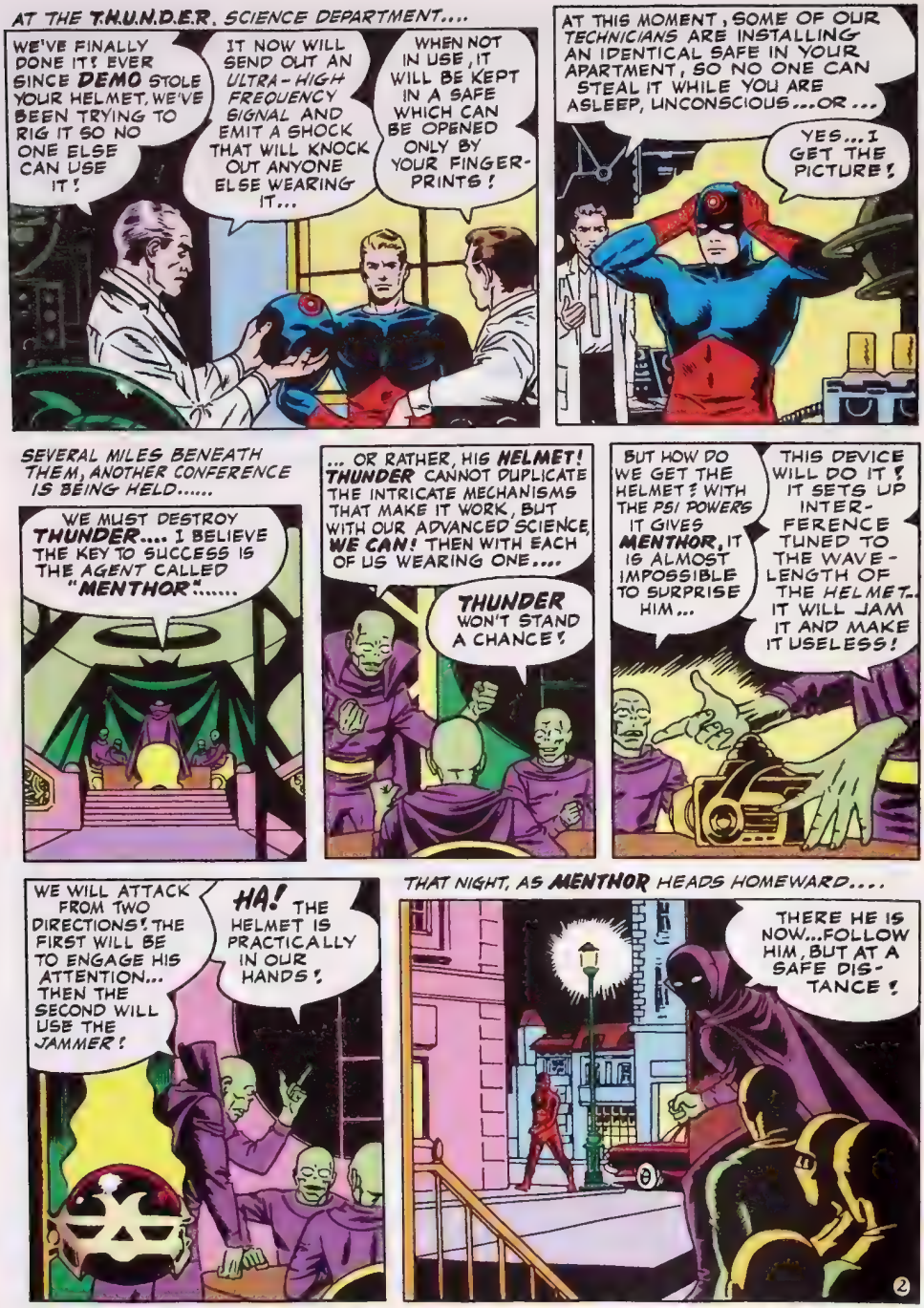


I DON'T KNOW HOW TO APOLOGIZE FOR LOSING SO MANY ANDROIDS...
AT LEAST WE PUT PASCHKE OUT OF BUSINESS... NO TELLING WHEN HE'D HAVE TIPPED HIS SPYING AND SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES....

END

PART OF THE OATH TAKEN BY EVERY **THUNDER AGENT** STATES THAT HE MUST BE READY TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE IN THE COURSE OF HIS DUTY, FOR THE CAUSE OF MANKIND... JANUS IS UNAWARE THAT TODAY HE WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE MOST FATEFUL DECISION ANY MAN CAN MAKE....

"A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!"


AT THE T.H.U.N.D.E.R. SCIENCE DEPARTMENT....
WE'VE FINALLY DONE IT! EVER SINCE DEMO STOLE YOUR HELMET, WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO RIG IT SO NO ONE ELSE CAN USE IT!
IT NOW WILL SEND OUT AN ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY SIGNAL AND EMIT A SHOCK THAT WILL KNOCK OUT ANYONE ELSE WEARING IT...
WHEN NOT IN USE, IT WILL BE KEPT IN A SAFE WHICH CAN BE OPENED ONLY BY YOUR FINGER-PRINTS!
AT THIS MOMENT, SOME OF OUR TECHNICIANS ARE INSTALLING AN IDENTICAL SAFE IN YOUR APARTMENT, SO NO ONE CAN STEAL IT WHILE YOU ARE ASLEEP, UNCONSCIOUS...OR...
YES...I GET THE PICTURE!
SEVERAL MILES BENEATH THEM, ANOTHER CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD.....
WE MUST DESTROY THUNDER.... I BELIEVE THE KEY TO SUCCESS IS THE AGENT CALLED "MENTHOR".....
...OR RATHER, HIS HELMET! THUNDER CANNOT DUPLICATE THE INTRICATE MECHANISMS THAT MAKE IT WORK, BUT WITH OUR ADVANCED SCIENCE, WE CAN! THEN WITH EACH OF US WEARING ONE....
THUNDER WON'T STAND A CHANCE!
BUT HOW DO WE GET THE HELMET? WITH THE PSI POWERS IT GIVES MENTHOR, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SURPRISE HIM...
THIS DEVICE WILL DO IT! IT SETS UP INTER-FERENCE TUNED TO THE WAVE-LENGTH OF THE HELMET.. IT WILL JAM IT AND MAKE IT USELESS!
WE WILL ATTACK FROM TWO DIRECTIONS! THE FIRST WILL BE TO ENGAGE HIS ATTENTION... THEN THE SECOND WILL USE THE JAMMER!
HA! THE HELMET IS PRACTICALLY IN OUR HANDS!
THAT NIGHT, AS MENTHOR HEADS HOMEWARD....
THERE HE IS NOW...FOLLOW HIM, BUT AT A SAFE DIS-TANCE!
2

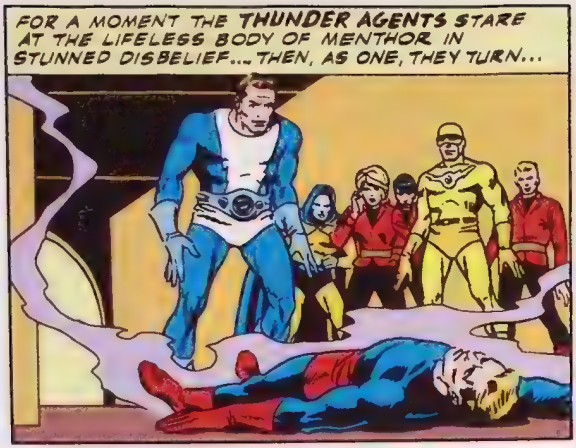
HE'S GOING IN! I'LL TAKE MY GROUP UP THE FIRE ESCAPE AND CREATE A DIVERSION...
RIGHT! AND I'LL BREAK IN THROUGH THE DOOR AS SOON AS I HEAR THE WINDOW SHATTER!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY... I MIGHT AS WELL PUT THE HELMET AWAY AND HIT THE SACK...
TOMORROW'S ANOTHER DAY.... WHAT'S THAT?!
GOOD EVENING MENTHOR! JUST LEAVE THE SAFE OPEN!
A WARLORD!
GOT TO GET THE HELMET ON!
POW!
POW!
ZANG!
BLASTED DOOR IS IN MY WAY!
DROP THAT GUN! I COMMAND YOU!
HIS POWER... TOO MUCH... FOR ME...
THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY... SOMETHING WRONG... IT'S A TRAP!
THAT'S RIGHT MENTHOR... IT'S ALL OVER FOR YOU NOW...
3

HAVE TO HOLD BOTH OF THEM OFF... THE HELMET! IT'S NOT WORKING!
I'M IMPRESSED AT YOUR QUICK GRASP OF THE SITUATION! GET HIM!
HE FIGHTS LIKE TEN MEN! EVEN WITHOUT HIS HELMET HE IS A DEMON!
SEND IN MORE ZOMBIES! HE MUST NOT ESCAPE!
NEVER MIND THE ZOMBIES! SHOOT HIM!
FINALLY MENTHOR IS SUBDUED BY SHEER NUMBERS...
AT LAST! NOW, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
SHORTLY AFTERWARD, IN THE HOME OF LEN BROWN...
R-RINNG!
YEAH...CHIEF... WHAT!? THE POLICE TOLD YOU WHAT? CENTRAL PARK... HOLES IN THE GROUND?!
I'LL GET RIGHT OVER THERE AND INVESTIGATE! I'LL STOP BY AND GET MENTHOR HE LIVES NEAR THE PARK TOO...

THE CHIEF SAID JANUS DIDN'T ANSWER HIS PHONE... I HOPE NOTHING'S WRONG...
GONE! THE DOOR'S OPEN AND THE WINDOW'S BEEN SMASHED! THIS MUST BE THE WORK OF THE WAR-LORDS!
THIS MUST HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH THE REPORT OF HOLES IN CENTRAL PARK... I'D BETTER GET THERE FAST!
SOON THE THUNDER AGENTS ARE GATHERED....
THEY MUST HAVE MENTHOR! I WONDER WHY THEY DIDN'T BOTHER TO COVER THEIR TRACKS...
IT'S AS IF THEY WANTED US TO FOLLOW THEM...
OF COURSE! THEY WANT A SHOWDOWN! WELL, THEY'LL GET ONE! LET'S GO!
AS, IN THE WARLORDS' CAVE...
THE HELMET! AT LAST! NOW TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SUPERIOR MIND OF A SUBTERRANEAN IS OPERATING TO ITS MAXIMUM CAPACITY!
NOW LET THOSE FOOLS FROM THUNDER COME... IT WILL BE A...
AAARRGH!
5

IT KILLED HIM! YOU SWINE...FOR THAT YOU DIE!
NO, HE ISN'T DEAD... BUT I HAVE ANOTHER LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOU! THE HELMET IS BROADCASTING A SIGNAL...
...AND AT THIS MOMENT, EVERY AVAILABLE AGENT IS UNDOUBTEDLY CLOSING IN ON THIS SPOT!
THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION, BUT WE KNOW THAT! IT IS JUST THE WAY WE PLANNED IT!
THE MACHINES YOU SEE HERE ARE A BATTERY OF LASER GUNS TRAINED ON THAT DOORWAY...
I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SET IT OFF... WHEN ANYTHING CROSSES THAT ELECTRIC EYE, IT IS BLASTED... INSTANTLY! FASTER THAN EVEN SUPER-HUMAN REFLEXES CAN REACT!
SO, NOTHING WILL SAVE THEM THIS TIME.... SPEED, STRENGTH, ABILITY TO SWITCH BODIES.... THIS TIME WE PUT AN END TO THUNDER.... FOR GOOD!
I SHOULD KILL YOU NOW... BUT I WANT TO SEE THE EXPREGSION ON YOUR FACE WHEN YOUR FRIENDS WALK THROUGH THAT DOOR!
GOT TO GET MY HELMET...
NO, YOU DON'T!
UNH!
POW!
6

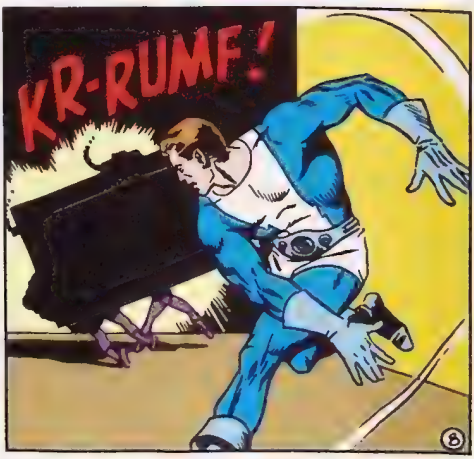
I'M WOUNDED.... MY SIDE...
THEY'RE COMING! THE RADIO DIRECTION FINDER REPORTS A GROUP OF INTRUDERS HAVE JUST BROKEN THROUGH THE OUTER DOOR!
EVERY-ONE! TO YOUR STATIONS! GET SET....
MUST DO... SOMETHING... MUSTN'T BLACK OUT... I....
...CAN'T JUST LET THEM... KILL... LEN...
LOOK! HE'S UP! STOP HIM!
... KITTEN... ... WEED....
POW!
... NOMAN... GUY.... ... GOT TO....
BLAM!
... WARN... THEM...
BLAM! BLAM!
POW!
ZZAP!
THE SHOTS ARE COMING FROM....
MEN THOR !!
7


FOR A MOMENT THE THUNDER AGENTS STARE AT THE LIFELESS BODY OF MENTHOR IN STUNNED DISBELIEF... THEN, AS ONE, THEY TURN...

THERE IS NO NEED FOR WORDS...

WITH BLAZING EYES, DYNAMO BURSTS THROUGH THE WALL AS IF IT WERE PAPER!
NO!

HE'S A MADMAN !!
RUN!

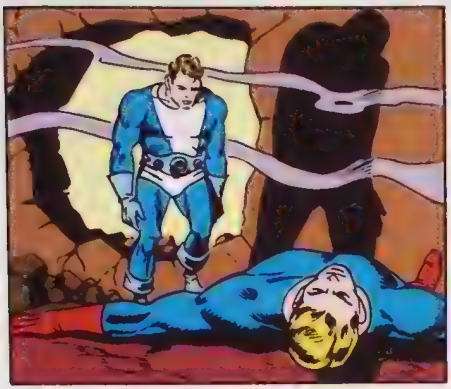

KR-RUMF!

THE **THUNDER AGENTS** FIGHT IN SILENT, SAVAGE FURY, GIVING NO QUARTER....

...AND THE GREEN MEN AND THEIR MINDLESS SLAVES ARE FORCED BACK...

...EVER BACK, UNTIL THERE IS NO LONGER ANY RETREAT.... ONLY EXTINCTION!!

THEN DYNAMO TURNS AND RETURNS TO THE CRUMPLED FIGURE OF HIS FALLEN COMRADE...



SEVERAL DAYS LATER, ON A RAIN-SWEPT HILLSIDE CEMETERY IN THE HOME TOWN OF JOHN JANUS, A SIMPLE CEREMONY IS HELD....

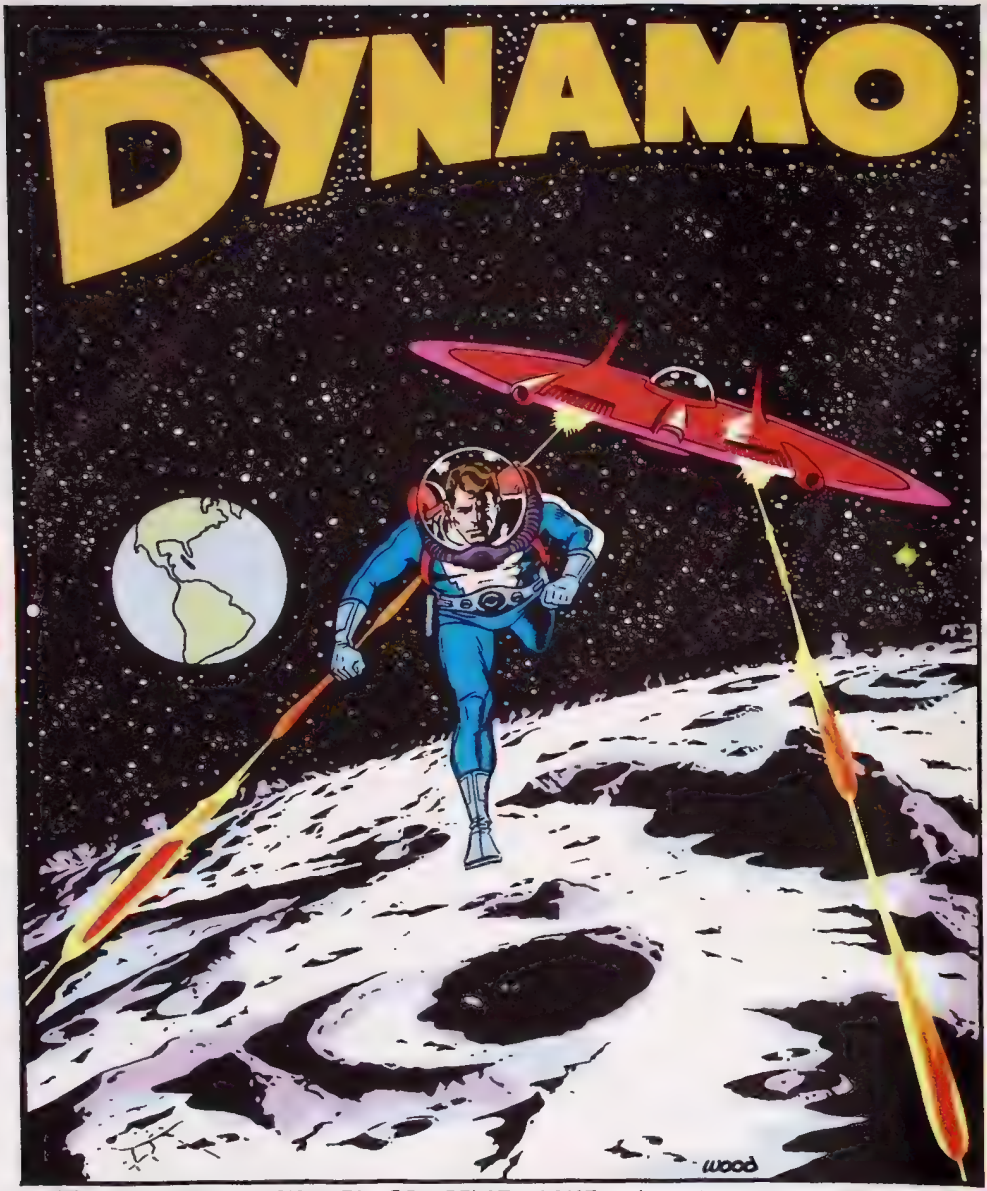
AND THEN THE VISITORS FILE AWAY WITH HEAVY HEARTS, EACH ALONE WITH HIS SORROW....

WHY, LEN? WHY DID HE HAVE TO DIE? :'(
HE WAS DOING HIS JOB, ALICE... HE KNEW THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE.... BUT HE DIDN'T HESITATE.....
HE DIED TO SAVE US! JOHN! WE'LL GET THEM FOR YOU! WE'LL GET EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIEND"....

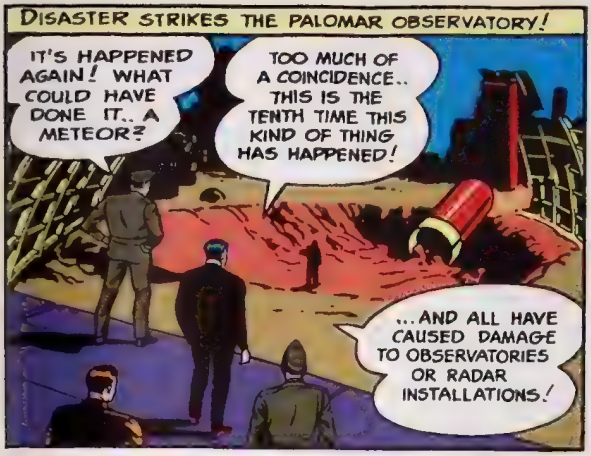
FINIS

NOW! THE BOOK YOU ASKED FOR!
DYNAMO
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
25¢
AUG. No. 1
THE GREATEST THUNDER AGENT OF THEM ALL!



FROM THE DEPTHS OF ENDLESS SPACE COMES AN UNKNOWN FORCE SO POWERFUL IT THREATENS ALL LIFE ON EARTH... T.H.U.N.D.E.R. SENDS ITS MIGHTY AGENT ON WHAT MIGHT WELL BE A SUICIDE MISSION IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO COUNTER THE...

"MENACE FROM THE MOON!"


DISASTER STRIKES THE PALOMAR OBSERVATORY!
IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN! WHAT COULD HAVE DONE IT.. A METEOR?
TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE.. THIS IS THE TENTH TIME THIS KIND OF THING HAS HAPPENED!
...AND ALL HAVE CAUSED DAMAGE TO OBSERVATORIES OR RADAR INSTALLATIONS!

IT'S AS THOUGH SOMEONE WERE TRYING TO PREVENT US FROM SEEING INTO OUTER SPACE... BUT WHY..?
EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN THINKING! I'VE ASKED THE PRESIDENT TO NOTIFY THUNDER!

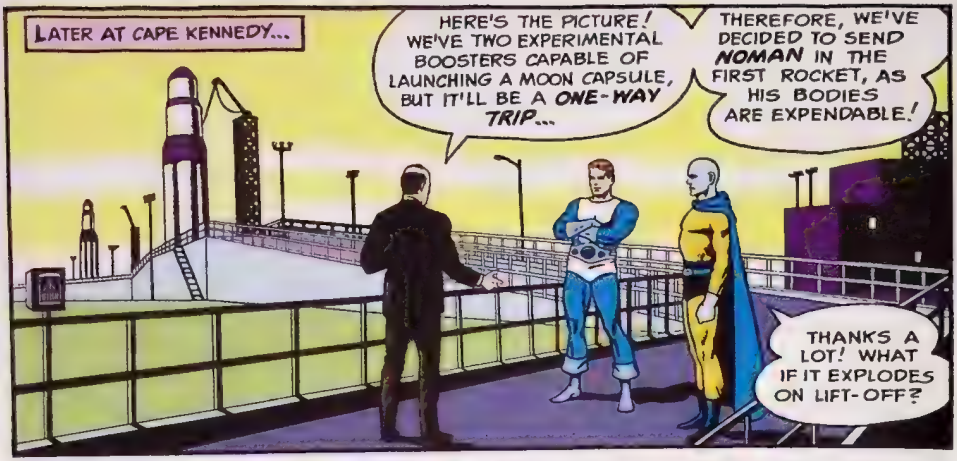
LATER, IN WASHINGTON, D.C..
SO THERE IT IS, GENTLEMEN! WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S GOT US STUMPED!
COULD IT BE SABOTAGE, SIR? THE CHINESE OR THE RUSSIANS...

HARDLY! THE C.I.A. REPORTS THAT THEY'VE HAD THEIR SHARE OF THESE EVENTS!
NOW, COME WITH ME TO THE PROJECTION ROOM.. WE'VE SOME PHOTOS THAT MAY HAVE SOME BEARING...

...THIS IS A PHOTO TAKEN TWO DAYS AGO AT THE PALOMAR OBSERVATORY... THEY REPORT THAT THIS SHADOW WAS *NOT THERE* LAST WEEK!

...AND HERE IS A PICTURE TAKEN BY AN AIR FORCE JET... THEY REPORT U.F.O.* SIGHTINGS HAVE TRIPLED IN RECENT WEEKS...
USAF
*U.F.O. – UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT.

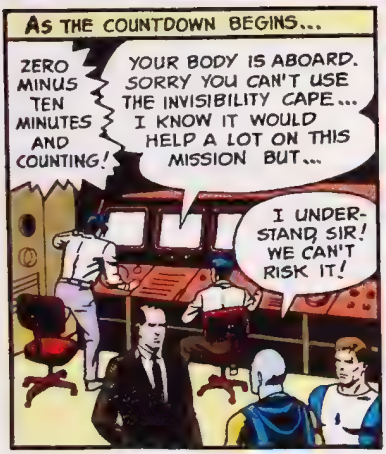
WELL, THERE WE HAVE IT! FANTASTIC AS IT SEEMS, ALL EVIDENCE POINTS TO AN ATTACK FROM OUTER SPACE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO RUSH THROUGH AN EXPLORATORY PROBE OF THE MOON!
2


LATER AT CAPE KENNEDY...
HERE'S THE PICTURE! WE'VE TWO EXPERIMENTAL BOOSTERS CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING A MOON CAPSULE, BUT IT'LL BE A ONE-WAY TRIP...
THEREFORE, WE'VE DECIDED TO SEND NOMAN IN THE FIRST ROCKET, AS HIS BODIES ARE EXPENDABLE!
THANKS A LOT! WHAT IF IT EXPLODES ON LIFT-OFF?

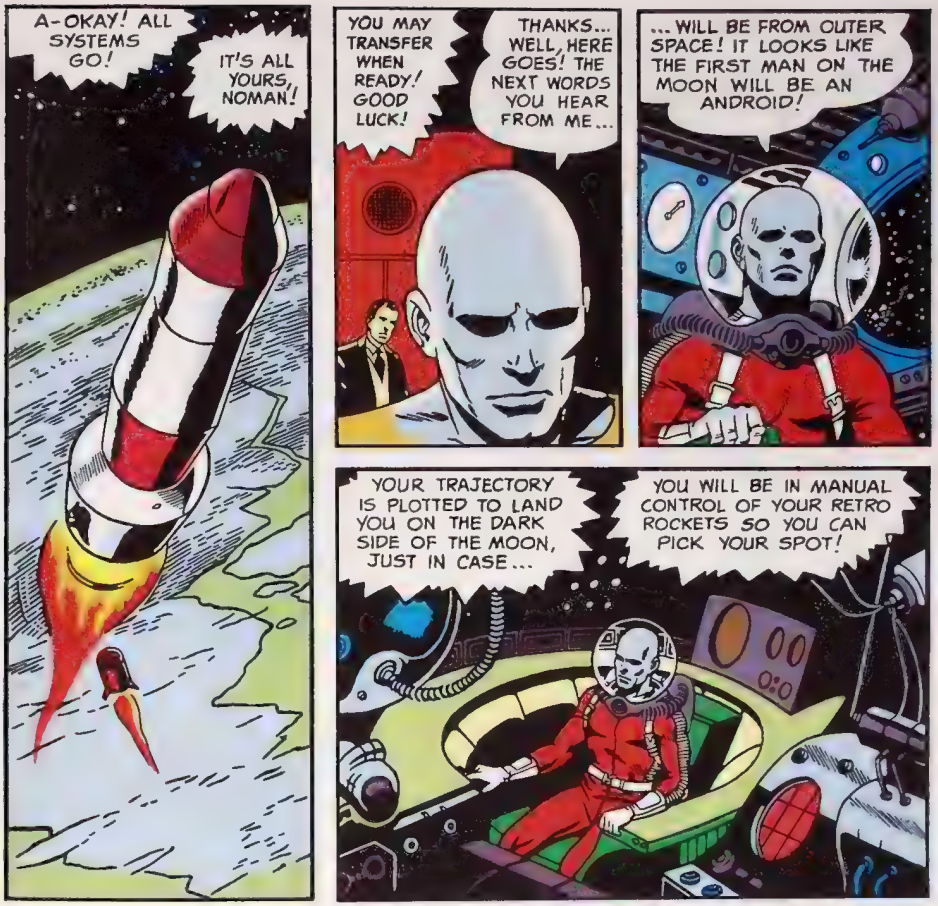
WE THOUGHT OF THAT! YOU'LL ONLY TRANSFER YOUR MIND TO THE ANDROID IN THE SHIP AFTER ITS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED!
NOW, REMEMBER... YOU ARE TO SCOUT AROUND AND SWITCH BACK TO A BODY AT H.Q.--

DON'T TRY TO TAKE ANY ACTION ON YOUR OWN... JUST GET BACK AND REPORT!
WHAT IF OUR SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED, SIR...?

THEN YOU'LL WANT A VOLUNTEER FOR THE SECOND ROCKET, WON'T YOU...
LET'S CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT, SHALL WE..?


AS THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS...
ZERO MINUS TEN MINUTES AND COUNTING!
YOUR BODY IS ABOARD. SORRY YOU CAN'T USE THE INVISIBILITY CAPE... I KNOW IT WOULD HELP A LOT ON THIS MISSION BUT...
I UNDERSTAND SIR! WE CAN'T RISK IT!

FOUR... THREE... TWO... ONE... BLAST OFF!
THERE I GO! I HOPE I MAKE IT!
3


A-OKAY! ALL SYSTEMS GO!
IT'S ALL YOURS, NOMAN!
YOU MAY TRANSFER WHEN READY! GOOD LUCK!
THANKS... WELL, HERE GOES! THE NEXT WORDS YOU HEAR FROM ME...
...WILL BE FROM OUTER SPACE! IT LOOKS LIKE THE FIRST MAN ON THE MOON WILL BE AN ANDROID!
YOUR TRAJECTORY IS PLOTTED TO LAND YOU ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON, JUST IN CASE...
YOU WILL BE IN MANUAL CONTROL OF YOUR RETRO ROCKETS SO YOU CAN PICK YOUR SPOT!

THE HOURS DRAG BY AS THE SPACECRAFT HURTLES TOWARD ITS GOAL...

ALICE! YOU STILL HERE? YOU'D BETTER GO HOME AND GET SOME SLEEP...
I...I COULDN'T! I KNOW THAT HE CAN TRANSFER TO ANOTHER BODY, BUT...
I KNOW... IT'S JUST THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF DANGER HE MAY RUN INTO... WHAT KIND OF BEINGS...
YES...OH, LEN! DO YOU THINK THEY COULD BE MEN FROM ANOTHER PLANET... SUPERIOR TO US IN SCIENCE...?
4

I'VE GOT A FEELING I'M GOING TO NEED EVERY BIT OF STRENGTH I HAVE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS...
WELL, I'M GOING HOME AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP! I SUGGEST YOU DO THE SAME...
LEONARD BROWN! HOW CAN YOU BE SO HEARTLESS? THAT'S YOUR FRIEND OUT THERE... OHH! I COULD ALMOST HATE YOU...
TWO DAYS LATER AND 25,000 MILES AWAY...
NOMAN TO THUNDER! AM TAKING OVER MANUAL CONTROL...
WAIT! AN OBJECT IS APPROACHING ME... IT—IT LOOKS LIKE A —☆
IT'S STOPPED! HIS RADIO'S GONE DEAD!
BROWN, I'M AFRAID WE BOTH KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, I CAN'T ORDER YOU... I CAN'T EVEN BRING MYSELF TO ASK...
I KNOW, SIR!
I'LL VOLUNTEER!
I'LL LEVEL WITH YOU....IT'S VERY LIKELY A SUICIDE MISSION! WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN...
...GET A CRASH PROGRAM GOING FOR A RETURN ROCKET, SEND SUPPLY ROCKETS WITH FOOD, AIR AND WATER...
...YOU MAY BE ABLE TO CAPTURE SUPPLIES, OR EVEN A SPACE SHIP, BUT THAT'S ALL A GUESS... WE'LL WAIT A FEW HOURS FOR NOMAN...
—BUT MEANWHILE ..WE COULD GET THE COUNTDOWN STARTED... WE'D BETTER NOT WASTE A MINUTE!
5

HOURS PASS, AND THE COUNT-DOWN IS NEARLY OVER...
ALL SUITED UP, SIR! ANY WORD FROM FROM NOMAN?
NO, LEN... I'M AFRAID IT'S NO USE... BY THE WAY, HERE'S SOME NEWS...
THE ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND EVEN THE RUSSIANS HAVE OFFERED THEIR AID IN TRYING TO LAND A RETURN VEHICLE...
THIS THREAT HAS MADE IT A REAL UNITED NATIONS' EFFORT, HASN'T IT? WELL, I'D BETTER GET ABOARD...
SO LONG, GANG! SEE YOU LATER... I HOPE!
LEN! LEN!
OH, LEN! YOU WERE GOING WITHOUT SAYING GOOD-BYE! I-I DIDN'T MEAN WHAT I SAID! I UNDERSTAND NOW...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, HONEY...
I...MAY NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN! I HAD TO LET YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL-- I--OH, LEN!...
I KNOW... AND I LOVE YOU TOO, ALICE ...NOW I MUST GO...
AT THAT MOMENT, AN ANDROID SITS UP AT THUNDER'S CAPE KENNEDY OFFICES...
...ZERO MINUS THIRTY SECONDS... AND COUNTING!
THE COUNT-DOWN! THEY MUST BE SENDING DYNAMO! I'VE GOT TO...
3... 2... 1... ZERO!
TOO LATE! THERE HE GOES... MUST GET TO THE RADIO TRANSMITTER!
6

WHA— NOMAN! WHERE DID YOU?!
NO TIME FOR THAT NOW! IS THAT SET TUNED TO THE ROCKET? I MUST CONTACT DYNAMO!
NOMAN CALLING DYNAMO! COME IN, DYNAMO! YOU MUST ALTER YOUR COURSE! YOU ARE IN DANGER! DO YOU READ ME? OVER!
THIS IS DYNAMO... HOW DO I MANAGE IT...? I'M NOT AN ASTRONAUT!.. AND WHAT KEPT YOU? OVER!
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT IN DUE TIME, BUDDY... RIGHT NOW I MUST GET THE CONTROL CENTER TO PLOT A NEW COURSE...
LATER, CONTACT IS RESUMED...
...THEY'RE WORKING ON IT NOW, LEN! YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A THING— CONTROL WILL TELL YOU WHICH ROCKETS TO FIRE WHEN!
OKAY... NOW WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
YOU MUST LAND ON THE LIGHT SIDE OF THE MOON! ...THE DARK SIDE IS CRAWLING WITH ALIEN CREATURES! THEY ONLY HAVE AN OUTPOST AND SOME SORT OF LAUNCHER ON THE SIDE FACING EARTH!
NO KIDDING— MEN FROM MARS?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'RE FROM, BUT THEY AREN'T EXACTLY FRIENDLY! THEY FORCED MY SHIP DOWN AND CAPTURED ME!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TRANSFER BACK?
I TRIED, BUT THEY PARALYZED ME WITH A RAY THAT SEEMED TO FREEZE MY BRAIN! I ONLY GOT AWAY WHEN THEY TURNED IT OFF TO EXAMINE ME!
OKAY, SUPPOSE YOU FILL ME IN ON THE REST OF IT SLOWLY... I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF DAYS TO KILL...
7
THE BRIEFING CONTINUES BETWEEN NAVIGATION INSTRUCTIONS, UNTIL FINALLY...
CONSERVE YOUR POWER, LEN! THE FATE OF THE WHOLE WORLD IS HANGING ON YOU—
I KNOW... I'LL TRY TO USE THE BELT AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE... UNTIL I CAN DO SOME REAL DAMAGE!

DYNAMO SIGNING OFF! DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!
THIS IS NO WAY FOR A HERO TO FEEL! I'M ALL ALONE... AND SCARED!
...AND HERE COMES THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE!
YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE, BOYS! I'M LOW ENOUGH TO JUMP NOW!
MADE IT! BUT NOW THAT SAUCER'S COMING IN FOR A STRAFING RUN!
WELL, HE THAT FIGHTS AND RUNS AWAY... HEY!
...I FORGOT ABOUT THE GRAVITY! I'M ABOUT SIX TIMES AS STRONG AS ON EARTH!
8

BUT I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP ALL DAY...
SO MAYBE I CAN DISCOURAGE THEM A BIT...
I DID IT! I'LL BET I'M THE FIRST GUY IN HISTORY...
TO KNOCK DOWN A SPACE SHIP WITH A ROCK!
WHAT'S THAT...? THEY'RE SENDING OUT SOME KIND OF CRAZY TANKS! OH WELL —
9

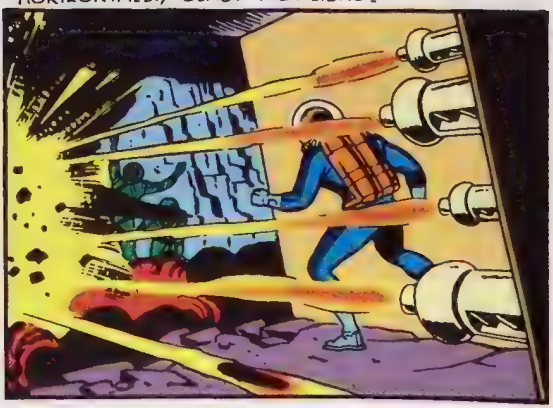
YIPE! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!
THIS WILL TEACH YOU...
TO FOOL AROUND WITH MRS. BROWN'S LITTLE BOY!
NO ONE INSIDE! THEY'RE ROBOT TANKS! WELL, HERE'S ONE WAY I CAN CONSERVE MY POWER... I'LL GET A FREE RIDE... IF I CAN OPERATE THE THING...
THE HATCH! IT SLAMMED SHUT! AND THIS THING'S STARTED TO MOVE! OH WELL, WHY WORRY? I'LL TURN THE BELT OFF AND RELAX UNTIL WE ARRIVE!
HOURS LATER, THE TANK ENTERS AN AIR LOCK ON THE MOON'S DARK SIDE...
HERE WE GO... JUST A TWIST OF THE DIAL...
HELLO THERE! HEY— DON'T RUN AWAY!
10

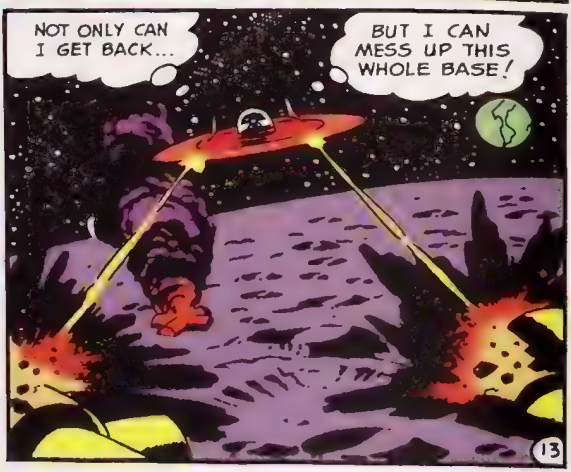
THE DOOR'S CLOSED BEHIND ME! AND THE LIGHT'S GONE OUT! IT'S A TRAP!
THOSE MACHINES ON THE CEILING...THEY'RE TRAINED ON ME! GOT TO GET--
--OUT OF--
YAAAAAA
ONLY ONE CHANCE... MUST... JUST CLOSE MY EYES AND... RUN FOR WALL IN DARK...
ANY WALL... JUST RUN STRAIGHT A—
YAAAAAA
CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS SLOWLY...
WHEW! THAT WAS RUGGED... WHAT-?! THEY'VE PUT ME IN A GLASS CASE... I'LL JUST SMASH OUT OF — WAIT! MY HELMET'S GONE! I'M IN A PRESSURE CHAMBER! IF I BREAK OUT I'LL DIE!
NOTHING TO DO BUT WAIT... AND TURN THE BELT OFF! NO TELLING HOW MUCH POWER I'VE WASTED!
HEY— WHAT TH— HERE COMES NOMAN! WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

HE'S ENTERING THROUGH THE AIRLOCK... I WAS NEVER SO GLAD TO SEE ANYONE IN MY LIFE!
NOMAN OLD BUDDY! WHERE-
LATER, PAL! NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE--HERE! HELP ME PUT THESE ON YOU...
IT'S ALL UP TO YOU... I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH POWER YOU HAVE LEFT, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO ACT FAST! THERE'S AIR FOR ONLY A FEW MINUTES!
THEY'VE GOT A BUNCH OF SAUCERS PARKED OVER THERE... THEY'RE YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET BACK AGAIN! NOW, GET GOING, AND GOOD LUCK! I'M GOING TO TRANSFER BACK TO EARTH NOW!
OKAY- HERE GOES!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA... FIRST I'LL JUST TIP OVER THIS BUILDING!
JUST IN TIME! THERE GOES MY LAST SECOND OF POWER!
JUST AS I THOUGHT! HERE COMES A WHOLE ARMY OF 'EM! THEY MUST'VE MISSED NOMAN!
GOOD! THEY'RE CHASING ME...
NOW BACK TO THE BUILDING.
12

DYNAMO RACES TO THE TOPPLED BUILDING, WHERE HE TRIPS A SWITCH...

AND THE CEILING PROJECTORS, NOW POINTING HORIZONTALLY, BLAST THE ALIENS!





DYNAMO LEAVES THE WHOLE INSTALLATION IN RUINS...
THEN HEADS THE SPACE SHIP FOR EARTH!
WARM UP THE COFFEE, MAMA! I'M COMING HOME!
BARELY FOUR HOURS LATER, DYNAMO RE-ENTERS EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE...
...AND SPLASHES DOWN IN THE ATLANTIC NEAR CAPE KENNEDY...
HERE COMES MY TAXI! TOO BAD THE SAUCER SANK... MIGHT'VE LEARNED SOMETHING...
LATER...
I SWITCHED BACK TO MY BODY ON THE MOON JUST IN TIME... FORTUNATELY, THEY DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS AN ANDROID AND THOUGHT I WAS DEAD!
YOU KNOW, SOMETHING JUST STRUCK ME... WE NEVER GOT A GLIMPSE OF THOSE ALIENS...
...IF THEY WERE ALIENS! THEY COULD'VE COME FROM ANYWHERE... EVEN EARTH, IF SOMEONE WANTED TO BOMBARD US FROM A MOON BASE...
POSSIBLE, BUT NOT PROBABLE! ANYWAY, THIS'LL HAVE TO BE KEPT SECRET... WE HAVEN'T A SCRAP OF EVIDENCE! I JUST HOPE THIS IS THE END OF IT!
BUT IS IT... THE END?

IF YOU'VE WONDERED WHAT ONE COMPLETE, TYPICAL DAY IS LIKE FOR T.H.U.N.D.E.R.'S MIGHTIEST AGENT, YOU WON'T FIND OUT FROM THIS STORY! ... NEVERTHELESS, THIS IS THE STORY OF...

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DYNAMO

7:30 A.M.
RINNG!
BROWN, TODAY YOU ASK FOR A RAISE... YOU'VE BEEN RISKING YOUR NECK FOR A PITTANCE!
THIS ©!!#☆ RUSH HOUR CRUSH! BET I'D CLEAR THIS CAR IN A HURRY IF I TURNED ON THE BELT!
AH, THE FAIR MAID ALICE! WOULDST DO ME THE HONOR OF DATING ME TONIGHT, MILADY?
LEONARD BROWN! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? I WON'T GO ANYWHERE WITH YOU UNTIL I'M SURE YOU'RE SANE!
GEE, WHAT A WAY TO START THE DAY! OH, WELL.. MUSTN'T FORGET I'M GOING TO ASK FOR THAT RAISE!
SAY, CHIEF.. THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK..
WHATEVER IT IS, BROWN, IT CAN WAIT! COME WITH ME... SOMETHING URGENT HAS DEVELOPED...
...WE'RE TESTING THE TRANSMITTER WE TOOK FROM DOCTOR SPARTA...
THE RECEIVER IS IN HONG KONG, WHERE WE'VE HAD SOME TROUBLE WITH RED STAR AGENTS... YOU ARE GOING THERE NOW!
2

9:15 A.M.
...SEVERAL AGENTS HAVE BEEN MURDERED! THAT'S WHY WE WANT TO SEND YOU...
... AS DYNAMO! GET READY!
LET 'ER RIP! I'M...
ALL ...SET!
SO THIS IS THUNDER HQ, HONG KONG... LOOKS LIKE A CHINESE RESTAURANT!
I GUESS YOU GUYS CAN BRIEF ME ON THE SITUATION HERE...
WE CERTAINLY CAN, DYNAMO! SEIZE HIM, MEN!
THE RED DRAGON!
WHAT... HOW..?
WE KNEW YOU'D BE SENT TO INVESTIGATE IF WE STIRRED UP A LITTLE TROUBLE HERE...
...SO WE TOOK OVER THIS BRANCH OF THUNDER TO PREPARE A RECEPTION FOR YOU! SEE, WE HAD TO GET YOU OUT OF THE WAY...
... FOR AT THIS MOMENT OUR AGENTS IN NEW YORK ARE PREPARING A MONSTER, A "RED FRANKENSTEIN," WHICH WILL DESTROY THE CITY...
3

10:30 A.M.
YOU ARE SMILING, DYNAMO... YOU FIND SOMETHING AMUSING?
YEAH... I WAS SUPPOSED TO FIND YOU.. BUT YOU'VE COME TO ME!
WE WILL SEE IF YOU FIND IT AS AMUSING IN RED CHINA!
WHAT'S THAT—?
...MEN COMING UP OUT OF THE FLOOR! THEY MUST BE THUNDER AGENTS!
GOOD OL' THUNDER! THEY NEVER FAIL!.
FLEE! THEY ARE TOO MANY FOR US!
AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU GUYS! YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!
THANKS A LOT... NOW IF YOU'LL JUST UNTIE ME...
I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T DO THAT JUST YET, MR. BROWN!
WHAT!? HEY!! YOU'RE NOT THUNDER AGENTS! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WHEN YOU CAME OUT OF THE GROUND.. YOU'RE SUBTERRANS!
QUITE CORRECT!
I'D SAY, "OUT OF THE FRYING PAN"... BUT I'M SURE EVERYONE'S HEARD IT!
LESS TALK... AND GET INTO THAT TUNNEL! WE'RE TAKING YOU TO THE OVERLORD!
4

11:45 A.M.
SO YOU'RE THE IMPERIAL GRAND UGLOID OF THE SUB-WORLD! BIG THRILL!
YOU CONCEAL YOUR FEAR WITH BRAVADO, BUT IT IS FUTILE..
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM ME, BUT YOU WON'T GET ANY INFORMATION...
YOUR RETICENCE IS LEGENDARY, BUT IT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE...
WE ARE PREPARING A NEW ATTACK, AND WITH YOU OUT OF THE WAY, NOTHING CAN STOP US!
THE RED CHINESE HAVE PERFECTED AN I.C.B.M.! THAT MISSILE WILL ENABLE THEM TO HIT WASHINGTON, D.C.— AND WE SHALL SEE TO IT THAT IT IS LAUNCHED!
ONCE THE MAJOR POWERS HAVE HAD THEIR ATOMIC WAR, IT SHOULD BE CHILD'S PLAY FOR US TO MOVE IN AND TAKE OVER...
HOLY COW! ANOTHER THREAT I'LL BE UNABLE TO COPE WITH!
BY THE WAY, YOU'LL BE GLAD TO MEET AN OLD FRIEND OF YOURS...
IRON MAIDEN!
HELLO, LOVER! WHEN I ESCAPED FROM YOU LAST TIME, I CAME BACK TO THE FOLD... YOU'LL GET NO MERCY FROM ME THIS TIME!
GUARDS! DON'T TOUCH HIS BELT.. IT'S BOOBY TRAPPED.. CHAIN HIM IN A CELL!
OH, BROTHER! EVEN IF I COULD GET OUT OF HERE, HOW WOULD I PREVENT NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON FROM BEING WIPED OFF THE MAP...?!
HSST! LEN.. OVER HERE!
5

1:55 P.M.
OH... IT'S YOU, IRON... I MEAN RUSTY! COME TO GLOAT, HUH?
NO... LISTEN TO ME... I'VE COME TO MAKE A DEAL! I'M NOT RISKING AN ALL-OUT NUCLEAR WAR IF I CAN HELP IT!
I'LL RELEASE YOU IF YOU PROMISE TO GET ME OUT OF HERE, AND LET ME GO!
I'VE NO CHOICE... IT'S A DEAL, ON ONE CONDITION!
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU MUST GET ME TO THE CHINESE MISSILE TESTING CENTER! I MUST GET ABOARD THAT ROCKET!
OKAY... NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
JUST A MINUTE, RUSTY! I WANT TO GIVE THE JOLLY GREEN GREMLINS SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY!
LOOK! DYNAMO IS FREE! THE IRON MAIDEN HAS BETRAYED US!
THIS SHOULD DO IT FOR THE TIME BEING... BETTER GET GOING WHILE I STILL HAVE SOME POWER LEFT!
THAT WAS JUST A SAMPLE, OVERLORD... YOU'RE LUCKY I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS ELSEWHERE OR I'D MAKE A THOROUGH JOB OF IT!
COME... THE RED MISSILE SITE IS AT THE END OF THIS TUNNEL...
THERE IT IS... I'LL CREATE A DIVERSION... ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW HOW TO FIRE THE THING?
YES... THAT WAS TO BE PART OF MY JOB— YOU JUST GET ABOARD AND LEAVE THE REST TO ME!
6

3:40 P.M.
WELL, I GUESS THIS IS GOOD-BYE... YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN GET AWAY ALL RIGHT?
OH, YES... MY ESCAPE ROUTE IS ALL TAKEN CARE OF, THANKS TO THE OVER-LORD'S PLAN!
RUSTY... WAIT! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP THIS KIND OF LIFE... YOU'VE SAVED ME TWICE... SURRENDER AND I'LL TRY TO HELP...
NO! THEY'VE GOT TOO MUCH ON ME... AND I HAVE MY REASONS FOR DOING WHAT I DO! I'M NOT READY TO GIVE UP YET!
VERY WELL... I'VE NO TIME TO ARGUE THE POINT! NEW YORK MAY BE IN RUINS RIGHT NOW! GOOD-BYE...
NOT GOOD-BYE, HANDSOME! AU REVOIR... WE SHALL MEET AGAIN...
AND NOW... GUNG HO!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE GOT THE WHOLE RED ARMY GUARDING THIS PLACE!
I HOPE RUSTY IS ON TIME!
GOOD GIRL!
BUZZZZ
VROOM!
7

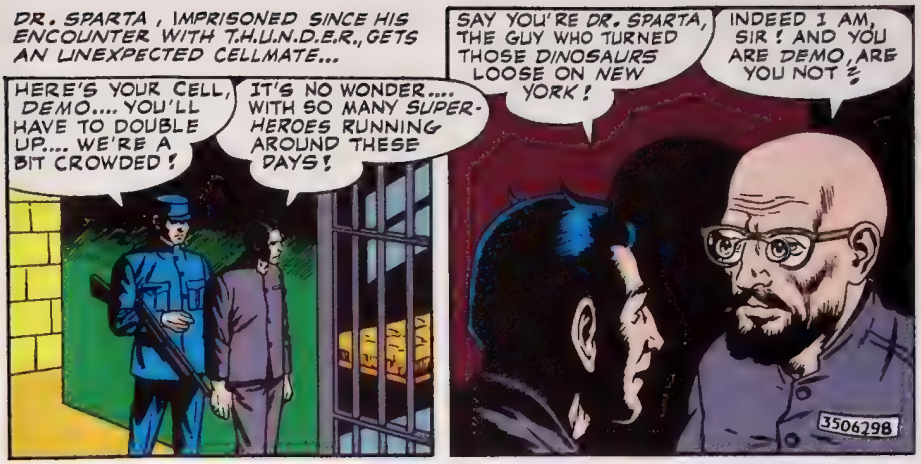
5:28 P.M.
I HOPE THE IRON MAIDEN KNEW HER BUSINESS... I'VE DONE A COUPLE OF ORBITS NOW... HEY! LOOKS LIKE... YES! BEGINNING TO RE-ENTER...
...WHICH MEANS I'D BETTER GET OUT OF THIS THING BEFORE IT STARTS TO BURN UP! I HOPE THIS STUNT WORKS...
CRACK!
YEAH...THIS ROCKET MOTOR I BORROWED IS ACTING AS A BRAKE...
THIS SHOULD SET SOME KIND OF WORLD'S RECORD FOR THE HIGH DIVE!
KROOMF!
...PART OF THE CITY IS ALREADY IN RUINS! I'M LATE!
BUT... BETTER LATE THAN NEVER TO COIN ANOTHER PHRASE!
THERE HE IS! ...AND LIKE, WOW!
8

6:05 P.M.
AIEE! IT IS DYNAMO! WE ARE LOST!
FOOL! NO ONE CAN DEFEAT THE BEHEMOTH!
READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!
SPLAT!
YOU CAN DISH IT OUT, CHARLIE...
...BUT CAN YOU TAKE IT?
THAT'S FUNNY...I KEEP GETTING THE FEELING...
THAT SOMEWHERE IN THIS PILE OF JUNK I SHOULD FIND A LABEL "MADE IN JAPAN"...
NOW FOR THE REST OF THESE 'RED STAR' RUFFIANS...
WAIT...WE ARE ALL OF A SUDDEN DISILLUSIONED WITH RED TYRANNY...
9

6:15 PM
THAT'S IT... JUST MARCH ALONG QUIETLY, LIKE GOOD LITTLE REDS!
WHEN WILL THESE RATS LEARN IT ISN'T HEALTHY TO TACKLE UNCLE SAM?
OH... THERE YOU ARE, BROWN! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? ALL WE FOUND IN HONG KONG WERE DEAD RED STAR AGENTS!
IT'S A LONG STORY, CHIEF... I'VE BEEN AROUND THE WORLD, UNDER IT, AND OUT OF IT! I'LL TURN IN A FULL REPORT TOMORROW!
BAH! I THINK YOU WERE SOMEWHERE DAY DREAMING UNTIL HALF OF NEW YORK WAS DESTROYED! YOUR STORY HAD BETTER BE GOOD!
AW, CHIEF! I... OH, HI THERE, ALICE!
SHE DIDN'T GO FOR MY GALLANT APPROACH THIS MORNING.. I'LL TRY THE HE-MAN BIT!
YOU'RE DATING ME TONIGHT, BABY!
WHAT?! I SHOULD SAY NOT! NOT UNTIL YOU LEARN TO ACT LIKE A GENTLEMAN!
Y'CAN'T WIN! GUESS THE MORAL IS "BE YOURSELF!"
11:30 PM
BOY, WHAT A DAY! IT WAS ANYTHING BUT ROUTINE... I DON'T THINK I COULD STAND TOO MANY LIKE THAT!
HEY! WITH ALL THAT WAS GOING ON, I NEVER DID GET AROUND TO ASKING FOR THAT RAISE! OH WELL...
...TOMORROW'S ANOTHER DAY...
10

DYNAMO
"BACK TO THE STONE AGE!"
CRANDALL AND WOOD

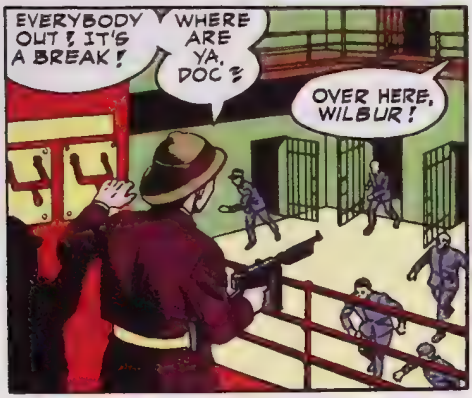
DR. SPARTA, IMPRISONED SINCE HIS ENCOUNTER WITH T.H.U.N.D.E.R., GETS AN UNEXPECTED CELLMATE...

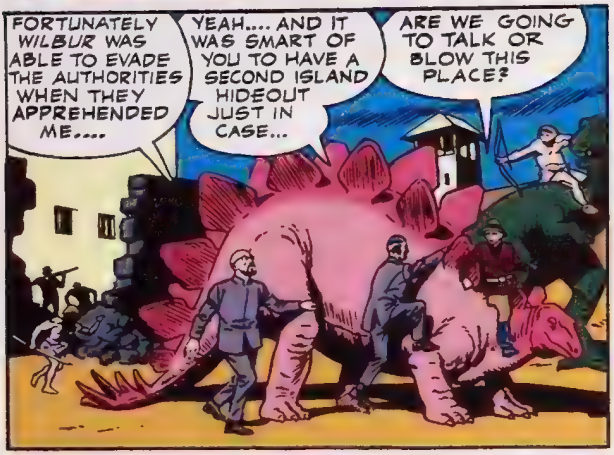

HERE'S YOUR CELL, DEMO.... YOU'LL HAVE TO DOUBLE UP.... WE'RE A BIT CROWDED!
IT'S NO WONDER.... WITH SO MANY SUPER-HEROES RUNNING AROUND THESE DAYS!
SAY YOU'RE DR. SPARTA, THE GUY WHO TURNED THOSE DINOSAURS LOOSE ON NEW YORK!
INDEED I AM, SIR! AND YOU ARE DEMO, ARE YOU NOT?
3506798

YES... I LEAD A BUNCH OF CAVE MEN WHO THINK I'M A GOD.... ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?
OF COURSE! FATE HAS THROWN US TOGETHER.... WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A JOINT EFFORT?
DOING WHAT? WE CAN'T DO MUCH IN HERE! YOU WOULDN'T HAVE A FILE HIDDEN UNDER THOSE WHISKERS, WOULD YOU?
NO, SIR, I DO NOT, BUT AT THE MOMENT MY ASSOCIATE IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING THE PRISON WITH THE MEANS TO OUR DELIVERANCE!
YOU MEAN..HE'S GOING TO SPRING US?

AND A FEW HOURS LATER, A FANTASTIC SIGHT MEETS THEIR EYES....

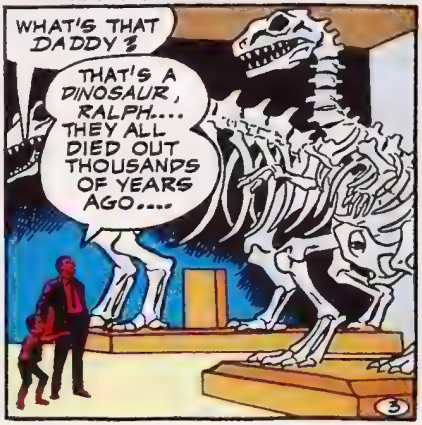
IN THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY THE GIANT REPTILES, WILBUR FREES ALL THE CONVICTS, AND THEN....




FORTUNATELY WILBUR WAS ABLE TO EVADE THE AUTHORITIES WHEN THEY APPREHENDED ME....
YEAH.... AND IT WAS SMART OF YOU TO HAVE A SECOND ISLAND HIDEOUT JUST IN CASE...
ARE WE GOING TO TALK OR BLOW THIS PLACE?

A FEW DAYS LATER....
HEY, ALICE! HAVE YOU SEEN THE PAPERS? DR. SPARTA AND DEMO ARE STILL MISSING...
I HEARD IT ON THE RADIO THIS MORNING... DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY'VE TEAMED UP?

MEANWHILE, AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY...

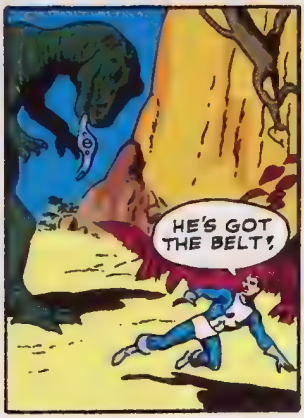


NO, THEY DIDN'T DADDY... THERE'S A LIVE ONE!
DON'T FIB TO YOUR OLD DAD.... YIPE!!! RUN FOR IT!!
OKAY, YOU APES! GRAB THAT STUFF THE DOC WANTS!
FROM A NEARBY VANTAGE POINT...
I STILL DON'T GET IT... HOW DID WE GET HERE, SPARTA?
MY TRANSMATTER* DEMO... IT'S TOO COMPLICATED TO GO INTO NOW, BUT IT WILL ALSO MEAN THE END OF DYNAMO... LOOK!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...THERE HE IS NOW! IF ONLY HE KNEW THE WHOLE THING WAS A PLOT TO TRAP HIM! HNH! HNH! STEALING DINOSAUR BONES! HEE! WITH REAL DINOSAURS! : SNORT!
*A MATTER TRANSMITTER...SEE T.A.#4...Ed.
YOU AGAIN! TAKE THAT!
WELL IF IT ISN'T WILBUR, DR. SPARTA'S STOOGE!
BRRRRT!
4

HEY!
COME HERE WILBUR... I MUST CHASTISE YOU!
A GOOD SHAKING MIGHT BE JUST WHAT YOU NEED!
YOW! STOP!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! A WALKING ARSENAL!
PUT ME DOWN, YOU BIG BULLY!
UNHAND WILBUR THIS MINUTE!
DOCTOR SPARTA!
JUST THE MAN I WANT TO SEE...
INDEED, SIR?
OH NO! TRAPPED AGAIN!
PRECISELY! BON VOYAGE, DYNAMO.... YOU PLAYED YOUR PART PERFECTLY!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, DOC AND CLOSE THE FIELD BEHIND US! I DON'T WANT ANY COPS BY SPECIAL DELIVERY!!
HNH! HNH! SPECIAL DELIVERY! Hnh! DEMO YOU ARE A CARD! He! YES SIR, A WIT! (snort)
DYNAMO FINDS HIMSELF IN A STRANGE VALLEY..
A TROPICAL FOREST OUT OF PREHISTORIC TIMES...

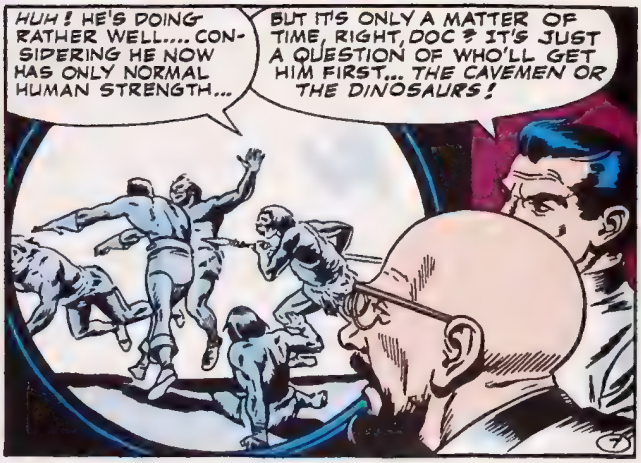
CLIFFS ARE HUNDREDS OF FEET HIGH....BUT I CAN TRY!
... MISSED BY A FEW YARDS! GOT TO TRY SCALING THEM!
NOW WHAT, SPARTA? HE'LL CLIMB OUT!
WILL HE SIR? YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME! JUST WAIT! Hee! Hee!
... CLIMBED HIGH ENOUGH! NOW I CAN MAKE IT!
WHAM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
THE ROOF! MY VALLEY IS SEALED ACROSS THE TOP WITH A TRANSPARENT PLASTIC STRONGER THAN STEEL! A VERITABLE HOT HOUSE!
HE'LL EXHAUST HIS STRENGTH TRYING TO GET OUT, AND THEN...
OH-OH! BELT GOT SNAGGED ON THAT BRANCH...
... AND THERE GOES THE FIVE MINUTE WARNING! THE BELT'S SHUT ITSELF OFF! WHAT NEXT?
BZZZZ!
AS DYNAMO DANGLES HELPLESSLY, HE GETS HIS ANSWER....
OH NO! A HUNGRY LOOKING DINOSAUR!
6

AS HE SCRAMBLES AWAY, DYNAMO LOOKS BACK....



LATER, AFTER THE MONSTER HAS GONE...

QUICKLY DONNING THE THUNDERBELT...


HUH! HE'S DOING RATHER WELL.... CONSIDERING HE NOW HAS ONLY NORMAL HUMAN STRENGTH...
BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, RIGHT, DOC? IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF WHO'LL GET HIM FIRST... THE CAVEMEN OR THE DINOSAURS!

HE'S GETTING AWAY... FOR NOW!
CAN WE CAPTURE NOMAN NEXT? I WANT THE PLEASURE OF SEEING HIS BODIES DESTROYED ONE BY ONE!

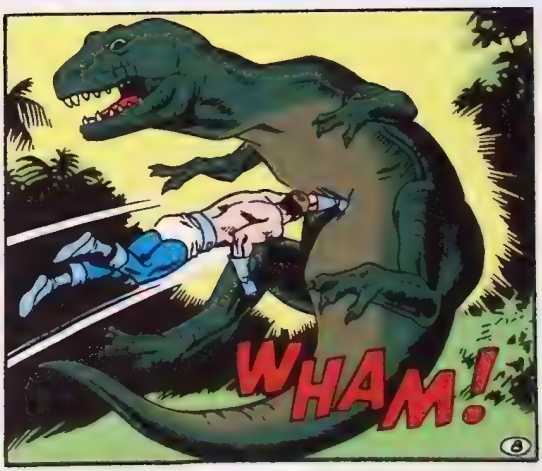
DYNAMO FINDS SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT....

AND SPENDS THE LONG HOURS UNTIL DAWN TRYING TO RE-PAIR THE BELT...
THERE'S 5 MINUTES OF POWER LEFT IN THIS THING...

AS HE STARTS OUT THE NEXT MORNING...
ONGAWA! KILL!!
SHUCKS!
CAN WE MAKE A DEAL... HOW ABOUT SOME COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS?

I HOPE I FIXED THE DIAL SO....
WHAT'S THAT.... OH, NO!

IT BETTER WORK NOW OR IT'S GOOD-BYE CHARLIE!
CR-RACK!


WHAM!
8

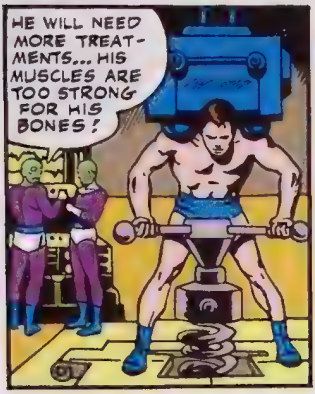
A BRIEF BUT SAVAGE BATTLE ENSUES...
NOTHING PERSONAL, REX OL' BOY...
BUT I CAN'T WASTE A SECOND!
THUD!
NOW FOR MY PRIMORDIAL PALS... Oh Oh! THAT WAS THE LAST GASP OF MY POWER!
CLIK!
BRACING HIMSELF FOR THE ONSLAUGHT, HE FINDS....
THEY'RE KNEELING!
UNGAWA!
LIGHTNING GOD! YOU TRUE GOD!
NOT LIKE PHONY CRUMB, DEMO!
THANKS, BOYS... RIGHT NOW YOU COULD SHOW ME THE WAY OUT OF HERE...
WAY OUT? OH... DOOR!
THERE... DOOR!
DOOR? IT'S A SOLID WALL OF ROCK! IF ONLY I HAD A FEW SECONDS OF POWER LEFT....

MAYBE THERE'S SOME KIND OF... HEY! IT'S NOT A DOOR AT ALL! IT'S A TRANSMATTER FIELD!
FOLLOW ME!
DOC! LOOK!
DYNAMO!
SHOOT HIM, WILBUR!
WHAT DO I DO NOW! NO POWER, AND LITTLE WILBUR'S GOT THE DROP ON ME...
GIVE IT TO ME, WILBUR!
DO YOU HEAR ME, WILBUR? SHOOT HIM! KILL HIM!
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T HURT ME... AND YOU MIGHT JUST MAKE ME ANGRY....
YOU WIN DYNAMO! I GIVE UP.... HERE...!
PHEW!
KEEP AN EYE ON THEM MEN! I'VE GOT A CALL TO MAKE!
YOU'RE LUCKY... JUST LUCKY! I'LL GET YOU YET!
YOU.... SHUT MOUTH!
THIS TIME YOU'LL BE PUT WHERE YOU'LL STAY PUT FOR A WHILE, DEMO, BUT YOUR NEANDERTHAL BUDDIES SHOULD GET LOTS OF GOVERNMENT AID.... THEY'RE CULTURALLY DEPRIVED!
AS FOR YOU, SPARTA, I DOUBT YOU HAVE ANY MORE ISLANDS OR DINOSAURS LEFT!

DYNAMO
MEETS THE
AMAZING ANDOR
DITKO
WOOD
OUT OF THE UNKNOWN COMES THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE OF ANDOR THE HUMANOID TO CHALLANGE THE MIGHTY THUNDER AGENTS! WITH POWERS EQUAL TO THOSE OF THE THUNDER AGENTS COMBINED, ANDOR IS A MINDLESS SLAVE TO THE FORCES OF EVIL.....

©OUR STORY BEGINS TWENTY YEARS AGO..... LONG BEFORE THE SUBTERRANEAN PEOPLE MADE THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UPPER EARTH, BEFORE THE FORMATION OF THUNDER...
MIGHTY OVERLORD, THE COUNCIL OF WARLORDS IS READY TO REPORT!
VERY WELL, LORD ARA... HAVE YOU MADE PROGRESS ON THE DYNAVAC, OXO?
YES, MY LORD! IT WILL TAKE YEARS, BUT IT WILL BE READY FOR THE INVASION OF THE SURFACE WORLD!
BUT LORD URU HAS AN EVEN LONGER RANGE PROJECT..... THE CREATION OF A BEING OF TREMENDOUS STRENGTH AND MENTAL POWERS, BUT UNDER OUR CONTROL.... "PROJECT ANDOR"...
FOR THIS PURPOSE, THIS HUMAN INFANT WHICH WE FOUND ABANDONED AND ALONE, WILL UNDERGO A SERIES OF TREATMENTS...
DESIGNED TO -EIGHTEN HIS SENSES, STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE HIS BODY IN EVERY WAY...SO THAT WE HAVE AN AGENT FINALLY WHO IS HUMAN IN APPEARANCE, BUT FAR SUPERIOR TO ANY MORTAL....
... HE WILL BE SUPERIOR TO A DYNAVAC, AS HE WILL BE ABLE TO REASON, BUT HIS CONDITIONING WILL MAKE HIM THE ENEMY OF ALL MANKIND!
BUT WHY A HUMAN? WHY NOT A MEMBER OF OUR RACE?
BECAUSE HE WILL BE ABLE TO GO AMONG HIS FELLOW MEN, FREELY, UNSUSPECTED!
VERY WELL.... GO THEN, AND PRESENT HIM AGAIN WHEN HIS CONDITIONING HAS BEEN COMPLETED...
THERE ARE RISKS, OF COURSE. BUT THEY ARE WORTH TAKING FOR SUCH A WEAPON!
2

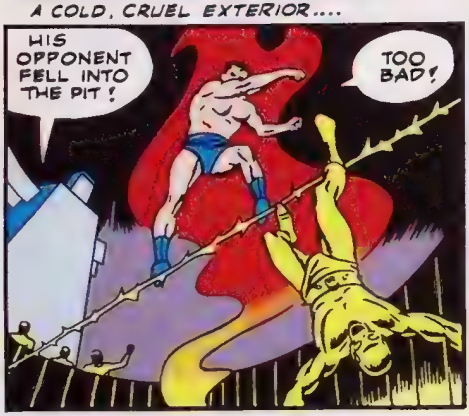
AS THE YEARS PASS, URU CARRIES ON HIS PROJECT....



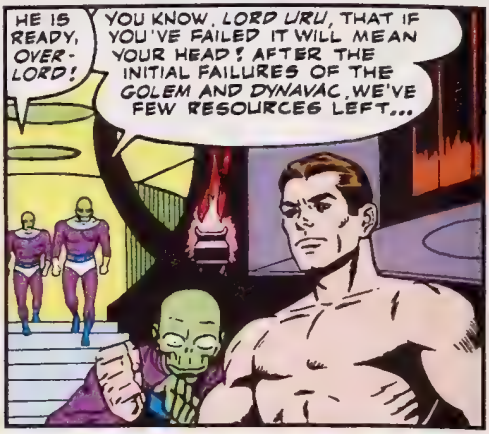
ANDOR DEVELOPS PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY TO AN AMAZING DEGREE....

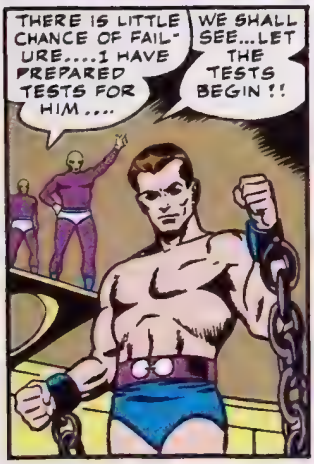
...BUT HE GETS NONE OF THE AFFECTION NEEDED BY HUMANS TO DEVELOP THEIR HUMANITY....

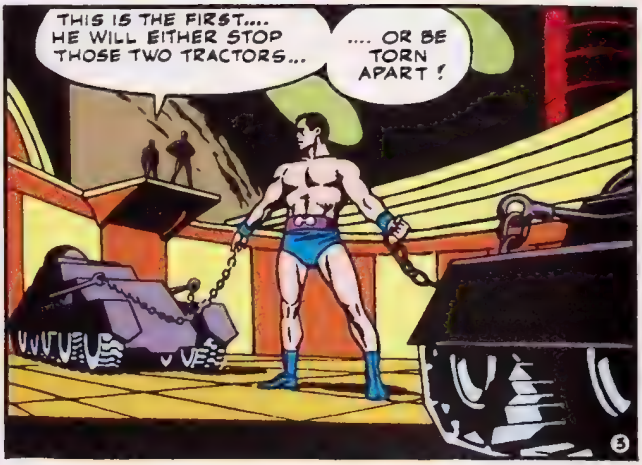
THEREFORE, THE LAST VESTIGES OF HUMAN FEELING IN HIM ARE BURIED BENEATH A COLD, CRUEL EXTERIOR....



FINALLY... THE DAY COMES....


HE IS READY, OVER-LORD!
YOU KNOW, LORD URU, THAT IF YOU'VE FAILED IT WILL MEAN YOUR HEAD! AFTER THE INITIAL FAILURES OF THE GOLEM AND DYNAVAC, WE'VE FEW RESOURCES LEFT...





HE'S DONE IT!
HE'S NOT ONLY STOPPED THEM... HE'S PULLED THEM OVER!
AND NOW.... THIS SHOULD PROVE HIS SPEED AND AGILITY...
...AND POSSIBLY HIS IMMORTALITY ALSO! OPEN FIRE!
FANTASTIC!
AT POINT-BLANK RANGE....
HE'S DODGING THE BULLETS....
...ALL BUT THE LAST ONE!
UH!
RAT TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT CLIK
NO! HE'S STILL UP.... SHOT NEAR THE HEART... AND STILL STANDING!
DOES IT HURT?
THE PAIN IS ALREADY STARTING TO EASE....
THE WOUND IS BEGINNING TO HEAL!
YES... AS I HOPED, HE IS INCREDIBLY RESILIENT... IN A FEW MINUTES ONLY A SLIGHT SCAR WILL REMAIN!
4

THIS TEST IS TO DETERMINE HIS MENTAL POWERS...
NOTE THE ANVIL, SIR.... BY SHEER WILL POWER HE WILL LEVITATE IT....
.... AND CAUSE IT TO CRASH THROUGH THAT WALL!
WHOOM!
WELL, MY LORD....DOES HE MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS? HE HAS THE POWERS OF THE THUNDER AGENTS... BUT REALLY AND PERMANENTLY! HE NEEDS NO MECHANICAL DEVICES ...
HE MAY NOT BE AS FAST AS LIGHTNING OR AS STRONG AS DYNAMO, BUT HE HAS NO TIME LIMIT, AND SO WILL DEFEAT THEM! AND ONCE THUNDER IS BEATEN, OUR CONQUEST CAN BEGIN!
BUT THE TRUE TEST OF COURSE, WILL BE ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE! I CAN HARDLY WAIT....
THEN GO! HAVE HIM FIGHT... AND KILL..... DYNAMO! THEN WE SHALL KNOW HIS WORTH!
AND SO, CONFIDENT OF VICTORY, URU SETS OUT WITH HIS CREATION.....
THIS IS THE DAY YOU'VE TRAINED ALL THESE YEARS FOR... DO NOT FAIL ME!
AS ANOTHER RAIDING PARTY LAUNCHES AN ATTACK DESIGNED TO DRAW DYNAMO INTO THE TRAP....
GET THE GUARDS! I'LL BLAST THE DOORS!
BY NOW THUNDER HAS BEEN NOTIFIED! REMAIN HIDDEN UNTIL DYNAMO MAKES HIS APPEARANCE!!
I WILL...
5

AS HE STARTS FOR HIS RENDEZVOUS WITH DYNAMO, ANDOR STUDIES THE PASSING PARADE OF HUMANITY...
... AND THE SIGHTS THAT MEET HIS EYES ONLY FORTIFY HIS INGRAINED HATRED...
HUMANS! I'M GLAD I'M NOT ONE OF THEM!
AND THEN..!
THAT CAR...IT'S TRYING TO RUN THAT GIRL DOWN!
SWIFTER THAN THOUGHT, ANDOR'S REFLEXES TAKE OVER....
NO! HELP!
OH!
WH... THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN DO THAT.... AND YOU'RE NOT HIM... WHO...?
MY NAME IS ANDOR! YOU'RE... A..... WOMAN!
YES! HA! HA! HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN ONE....?
NO! .... I MEAN NOT LIKE YOU... WHO ARE YOU?
I'M KITTEN KANE! THOSE FOREIGN AGENTS WOULD'VE KILLED ME IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU! I'M AN AGENT OF THUNDER!
THUNDER! THIS IS GREAT... SHE'S MY TICKET INTO THE ENEMY H.Q...
THUNDER? WHAT'S THAT?
6

I'LL TAKE YOU THERE... JUST TELL ME WHERE IT IS...
NO, I'LL BE ALL RIGHT...I... OH! MY ANKLE! I THINK IT'S BROKEN!
THAT SETTLES IT... YOU MAY TELL ME ALL ABOUT THIS "THUNDER" AS I TAKE YOU THERE...
HOW COME YOU'RE SO STRONG? THUNDER MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN YOU.....
LATER....
...AND HE SAVED MY LIFE, CHIEF! I HAD HIM BRING ME HERE SO YOU COULD INTERVIEW HIM!
I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T PLAYED ALONG WITH SOME PLOT TO INFILTRATE THUNDER....
AS HE WAITS, ANDOR PONDERS...
WHY DID I SAVE HER? SHE'S A HUMAN.... AND A THUNDER AGENT! BUT SHE'S SO LOVELY....HOW CAN SHE BE EVIL?
HERE COMES DYNAMO! HE'S GOT A BUNCH OF PRISONERS! ZOMBIES!
I CAN'T FIGURE IT... THEY ATTACKED LIKE THEY WERE TRYING TO COMMIT SUICIDE... AND TO NO GOOD PURPOSE...
I SUSPECTED A TRAP...BUT NO SUCH LUCK....
DYNAMO, THIS IS ANDOR! HE....
ANDOR! ONE OF THEM MENTIONED THAT NAME... HE SAID "WHERE'S ANDOR?"...
YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN YOURSELF, MISTER!
OH, VERY WELL... I'M ANDOR OF THE SUB-TERRANEANS, AND I'VE COME HERE TO KILL YOU!
DYNAMO! WATCH OUT! HE CAN DO IT...HE'S AS STRONG AS YOU!
OH, GREAT... AND ME RUNNING OUT OF GAS! WELL, WE'LL GET THIS OVER WITH QUICK!

THE BATTLE BEGINS...
HE'S FASTER THAN I AM...
UGH...I FELT THAT!
I MAY NOT BE AS STRONG AS YOU RIGHT NOW....
...BUT WAIT! YOU'LL BE-GIN TO WEAKEN...
BZZZZ
THE WARNING SIGNAL! MY LAST 5 MINUTES!
THAT'S WHY WE WON'T WAIT!
AS THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES, THE ADVANTAGE SHIFTS TO ANDOR.....
AM I WRONG DYNAMO...
OR IS YOUR STRENGTH GONE?
STOP HIM! HE'S KILLING DYNAMO!
HOW? HE'S LIKE A TANK!
8

AND THEN....

AND, WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD....

ANDOR PAUSES AS HE FINDS A MANHOLE.... A VAGUE, PUZZLED LOOK FLITS ACROSS HIS FACE...

AND THEN, AS A MENTAL COMMAND FROM URU, HIS WARLORD MASTER REACHES HIM...

HIS FACE AGAIN BECOMES A HARD, COLD MASK....
FROM THE MAN-MADE CAVERNS UNDER THE CITY HE MAKES HIS WAY TO THE SUBTERRANEAN TUNNELS OF THE WARLORDS....
....AND FINALLY...
YOU TRAITOR! I MONITORED YOUR THOUGHTS!
I....I... I DON'T KNOW WHY.. YES! YES, I DO!
I AM HUMAN! SOMEHOW YOU TURNED ME INTO A MONSTER, DENIED ME MY BIRTH-RIGHT...
I'LL HAVE TO PAY WITH MY LIFE FOR MY FAILURE, BUT I MUST ERASE MY MISTAKE.... YOU...
SOMEHOW YOUR MIND MACHINES COULDN'T RE-MOVE EVERY TRACE OF HUMAN FEELING.... NOW...
NOW THERELL BE RETRIBUTION! REVENGE!
RROAR
BUT ANDOR THE IMMORTAL SURVIVES...
I LIVE.... BUT WHY...?
AN OUTCAST... AN ENEMY TO HUMAN AND SUB-TERRAN ALIKE...
A STRANGER IN A ST ANGE LAND... DOOMED TO WANDER THE FAR CORNERS OF THE EARTH UNTIL...
...THE END.

T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENT WEED

EVERYONE HAS AT SOME TIME HAD DAYDREAMS OF BEING A SUPER-HUMAN HERO.... A HERCULES, A SAMSON... AND THUNDER AGENT WEED IS NO EXCEPTION! SURROUNDED BY AGENTS, WITH EXTRA-ORDINARY POWERS, HE IS FRUSTRATED AND ENVIOUS UNTIL ONE DAY HE BECOMES....

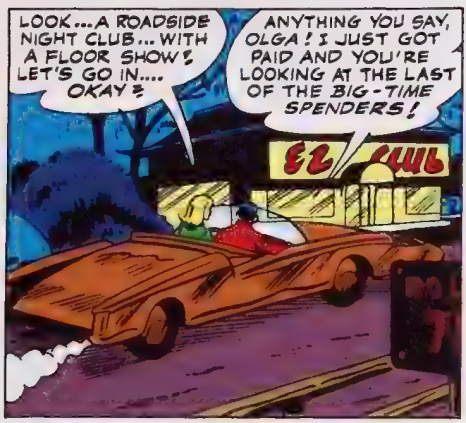
"WONDER WEED, SUPER HERO"

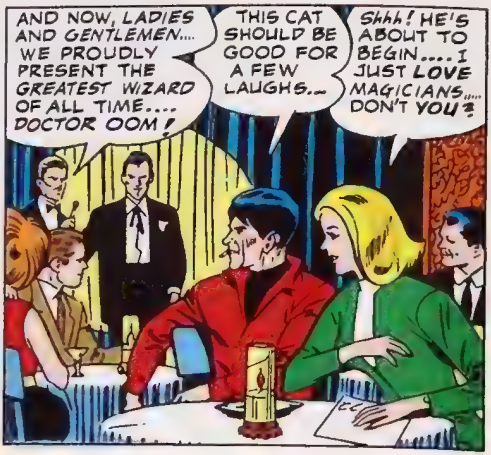
IT IS THE END OF A DAY'S WORK AT THUNDER HQ....
WELL, SEE YOU IN THE MORNING! COMING ALICE?
WHERE ARE WE GOING LEN?
HEY, GUY.... HOW ABOUT TAKING IN A MOVIE OR SOMETHING?
SORRY, WEED, I'VE GOT A DATE THIS EVENING...AND HERE SHE IS NOW....
OLGA, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET "WEED"... ONE OF OUR TOP AGENTS!
HELLO, MR. WEED! IT'S SO THRILLING TO MEET A SUPER-AGENT! ER... WHAT POWERS DO YOU HAVE?
WHY, I... ER...WELL, THAT IS... I DON'T HAVE ANY!
OH, GEE...I'M SORRY! WELL, SHALL WE GO, GUY?
BOY SOME PEOPLE HAVE ALL THE LUCK! LIGHTNING AND DYNAMO HAVE SUPER POWERS AND BEAUTIFUL CHICKS, AND WHAT HAVE I GOT? THE 'RED ALERT' PHONE!
RRRING
WEED SPEAKING...WHAT!? ENEMY AGENTS IN THE MISSILE BASE? I'LL SHOOT RIGHT DOWN...HUH? ANYONE ELSE HERE? WELL, I MIGHT CATCH LIGHTNING... HOLD ON!
HEY, THIS IS SOME WAGON, BABY! I GO APE FOR FAST CARS! WHAT CAN SHE DO?
JUST YOU WAIT UNTIL I GET 'ER OUT ON THE TURNPIKE....
HEY GUY! HOLD IT! PHONE! RED ALERT!!
SHUCKS! WHY DIDN'T THIS CALL COME IN A MINUTE LATER!
I COULD'VE TAKEN CARE OF IT JUST AS WELL AS THAT BIG LUMMOX! WELL, MIGHT AS WELL BUG OUT..... I'M NOT NEEDED HERE!
YEAH, CHIEF..?

THERE HE GOES, THE BIG SHOW-OFF! I SHOULDA GOT PICKED TO BE "LIGHTNING"!
...I'VE BEEN WITH THUNDER LONGER THAN THAT CLOWN! IT'S NOT FAIR!

ANOTHER DULL NIGHT.... NOTHING TO DO, AND NO ONE TO DO IT WITH! SAY.... THERE'S THE GIRL GUY STOOD UP! MAYBE....
HI, OLGA! SORRY ABOUT GUY...
DON'T BE! I'M JUST AS GLAD... CAN I GIVE YOU A LIFT SOMEWHERE?

SHE LIKES ME!
WHY DON'T WE JUST GO FOR A NICE LONG DRIVE, MR. WEED? I LOVE TO JUST HOP IN MY CAR AND GO!.... DON'T YOU?
SURE... ANYWHERE! YOU NAME IT!


LATER, MILES OUT ON THE HIGHWAY....
LOOK...A ROADSIDE NIGHT CLUB... WITH A FLOOR SHOW! LET'S GO IN.... OKAY?
ANYTHING YOU SAY, OLGA! I JUST GOT PAID AND YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE LAST OF THE BIG-TIME SPENDERS!

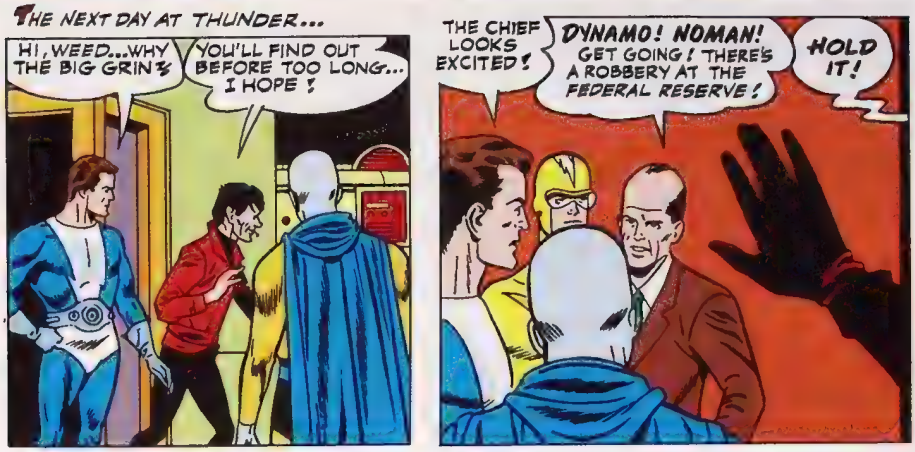

AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.... WE PROUDLY PRESENT THE GREATEST WIZARD OF ALL TIME.... DOCTOR OOM!
THIS CAT SHOULD BE GOOD FOR A FEW LAUGHS...
Shhh! HE'S ABOUT TO BEGIN.... I JUST LOVE MAGICIANS.... DON'T YOU?

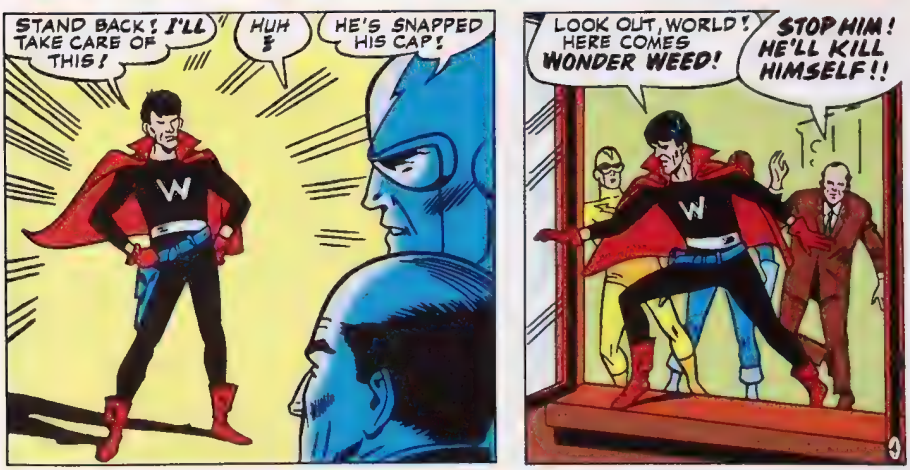
MR. WILLIAM WYLIE, BETTER KNOWN AS "WEED" IS IN OUR AUDIENCE TONIGHT!... WILL YOU COME UP HERE, MR. WYLIE?
Huh?!!

YOU KNOW ME? WE MET SOME-PLACE?
SSHH YOU WILL COME TO MY DRESSING-ROOM AFTER THE SHOW....
WHY, WHAT HAVE WE HERE.....

WHY DO YOU HAVE ALL THOSE PIGEONS IN YOUR JACKET?
HA-HA
HA
HA
HA
YOUR DREAMS OF POWER WILL COME TRUE.... I PROMISE YOU....
3

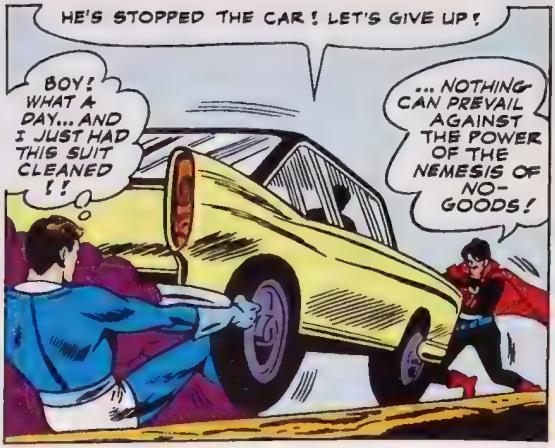
LATER...AFTER THE SHOW.....
OKAY OOM! WHAT'S THE GAG?
PLEASE SIT DOWN, MR. WYLIE... DOCTOR OOM KNOWS ALL AND CAN MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE...
YOU ARE A BITTER MAN, MR. WYLIE... TROUBLED... YOU DESIRE GREAT POWER... AND IT SHALL BE YOURS!
I GOT IT COMING, RIGHT?
FOR I CAN WORK MIRACLES. NOT SHABBY STAGE TRICKS, BUT GENUINE SCIENTIFIC MARVELS.... LOOK AT ME, AND BELIEVE!


THE NEXT DAY AT THUNDER...
HI, WEED...WHY THE BIG GRIN?
YOU'LL FIND OUT BEFORE TOO LONG... I HOPE!
THE CHIEF LOOKS EXCITED!
DYNAMO! NOMAN! GET GOING! THERE'S A ROBBERY AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE!
HOLD IT!


STAND BACK! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!
HUH?
HE'S SNAPPED HIS CAP!
LOOK OUT, WORLD! HERE COMES WONDER WEED!
STOP HIM! HE'LL KILL HIMSELF!!

EVIL-DOERS BEWARE! THE COSTUMED CRUSADER IS COMING!
HE JUMPED! I'LL HAVE TO ACT FAST!
YEAH... IT'S UP TO YOU, GUY... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE HIM NOW!
WE'LL HAVE TO HUMOR THE POOR SAP UNTIL WE CAN GET HIM TO A PSYCHIATRIST!
WHEE!!
BY FLYING CIRCLES AROUND HIM, I CAN KEEP HIM ALOFT, RIDING ON A CUSHION OF AIR....
I KNEW I COULD DO IT! I'M FLYING!!
...AND WITH MY SPEED, HE HASN'T SEEN ME! THERE! HE'S SAFELY DOWN.... NOW WHAT?!
NOW TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!
HE'S GOING IN.... I'LL CALL THUNDER....
...LET'S PROTECT HIM UNTIL WE CAN FIND OUT WHAT'S BEHIND THIS!
ROGER! WE'RE ON OUR WAY... GET IN THERE AND TAKE CARE OF HIM UNTIL WE ARRIVE!
STOP! GIVE YOURSELVES UP AND COME QUIETLY, OR...
WHAT?
WHO'S THAT?
THERE MUST BE A REAL SHORTAGE OF SUPER HEROES...
6

HA! YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP WONDER WEED WITH GUNS!?
THE IDIOT! NOW I'LL HAVE TO CATCH THOSE BULLETS...
POW
POW
HE ISN'T HUMAN! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WHEW!
HA!
I'LL JUST CUT THEM OFF.... BY GOING THROUGH THAT WALL! WATCH OUT FOR FLYING BRICKS!
OH, NO!
WHILE OUTSIDE, THE OTHERS HAVE ARRIVED...
JUST TELL ME WHEN, NOMAN! ....ALTHOUGH I STILL THINK WE SHOULD LET HIM KNOCK HIMSELF SILLY AGAINST THIS WALL...
...READY... NOW!!
NOTHING TO IT! I DIDN'T FEEL A THING!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THAT LITTLE SQUIRT COULDN'T....
SO YOU WANT A TASTE OF FISTICUFFS, DO YOU? WELL, DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU....
SPLAT
3

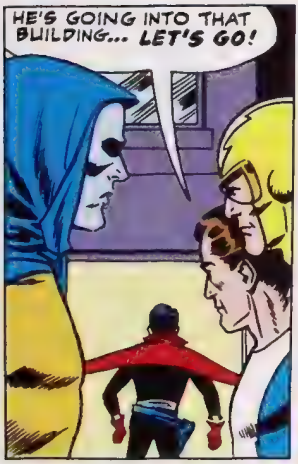

HE'S STOPPED THE CAR! LET'S GIVE UP!
BOY! WHAT A DAY... AND I JUST HAD THIS SUIT CLEANED!!
... NOTHING CAN PREVAIL AGAINST THE POWER OF THE NEMESIS OF NO-GOODS!

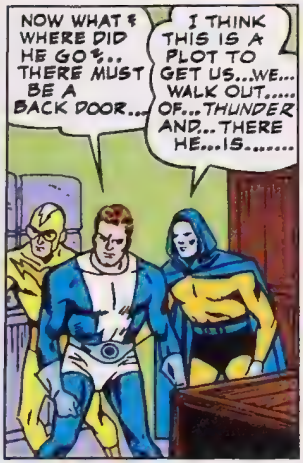
LATER...THE AGENTS REPORT...

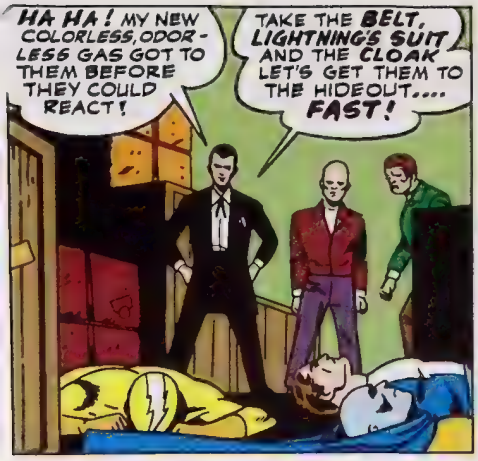
YEAH, YOU DID JUST GREAT, YOU FATHEADS! WHILE YOU WERE PLAYING GAMES WITH WEED, SIX OTHER ROBBERIES WERE TAKING PLACE!
WHERE IS THAT MANIAC, ANYWAY?
I DON'T KNOW, CHIEF.. HE JUST VANISHED!

WELL, FIND HIM BEFORE THE MEN IN THE WHITE COATS DO... WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
YES SIR! WE'LL ALL GET ON IT AND SCOUR THE CITY... WHEN WE FIND HIM WE'LL TAIL HIM TILL HE LEADS US TO WHO EVER IS BEHIND THESE CRIMES!

AS THEY LEAVE THUNDER HQ.






HA HA! MY NEW COLORLESS, ODORLESS GAS GOT TO THEM BEFORE THEY COULD REACT!
TAKE THE BELT, LIGHTNING'S SUIT AND THE CLOAK LET'S GET THEM TO THE HIDEOUT.... FAST!

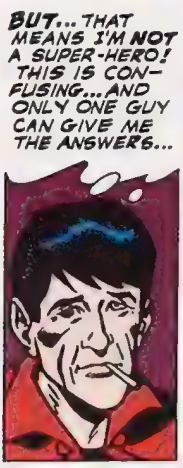
AS MEANWHILE, WEED WANDERS WEARILY ON.....
LET'S SEE.... WHERE WAS I GOING? I'M KIND OF BEFUDDLED LATELY.... MUST BE THE STRAIN OF BEING A SUPER-HERO!

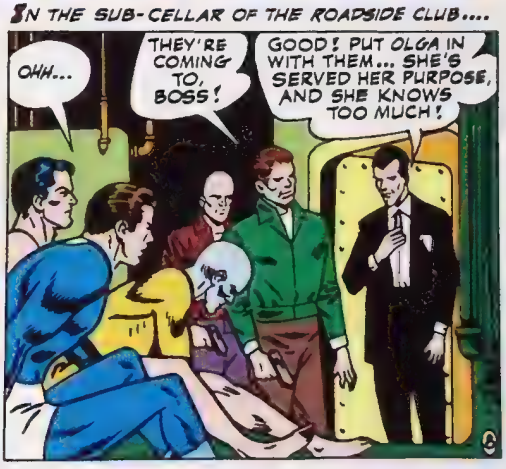
OOF! SAY, WHY DON'T YOU WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING SHRIMP?

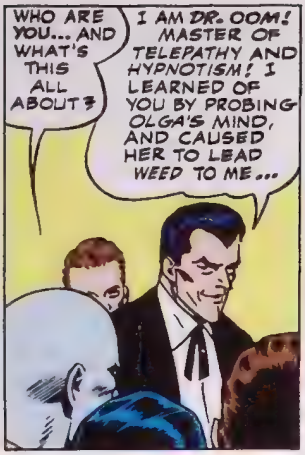
WHO YOU CALLING SHRIMP, YOU BIG APE? BE CAREFUL, OR I'LL BE FORCED TO INJURE YOU!
HUH?

YOU GOT A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR THERE, SHRIMP!

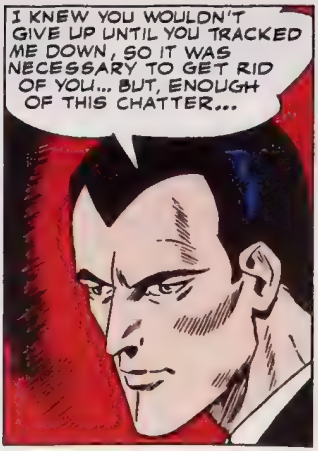
HEY! YOU KNOCKED ME DOWN....!
YOU'RE SMARTER THAN YOU LOOK, KID!


BUT... THAT MEANS I'M NOT A SUPER-HERO! THIS IS CONFUSING... AND ONLY ONE GUY CAN GIVE ME THE ANSWERS...


IN THE SUB-CELLAR OF THE ROADSIDE CLUB....
OHH...
THEY'RE COMING TO, BOSS!
GOOD! PUT OLGA IN WITH THEM... SHE'S SERVED HER PURPOSE, AND SHE KNOWS TOO MUCH!


WHO ARE YOU... AND WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I AM DR. OOM! MASTER OF TELEPATHY AND HYPNOTISM! I LEARNED OF YOU BY PROBING OLGA'S MIND, AND CAUSED HER TO LEAD WEED TO ME...

.... I SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT HE HAD SUPER POWERS KNOWING IT WOULD KEEP YOU OCCUPIED PROTECTING HIM FROM HIMSELF! THEN I SENT HIM TO LURE YOU INTO MY TRAP...


I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T GIVE UP UNTIL YOU TRACKED ME DOWN, SO IT WAS NECESSARY TO GET RID OF YOU... BUT, ENOUGH OF THIS CHATTER...

WHEN I CLOSE THIS VAULT DOOR, IT WILL BE AIR-TIGHT! YOU'LL USE UP THE AIR IN HERE RAPIDLY.... AND THEN SUFFOCATE!
YOU MONSTER! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

THERE... THAT TAKES CARE OF THOSE THUNDER CREEPS! NOW....
SLAM
...NOW YOU'LL PUT UP YOUR HANDS AND TURN AROUND... SLOWLY!

WEED! GET HIM, MEN!
SO YOU WANT TO PLAY...

WELL, I MAY NOT BE 'WONDER WEED'...

BUT I AM A THUNDER AGENT!
9

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOWARD TO THIS FOR SOME TIME, DOC!
GOOD THING I REMEMBERED WHERE THIS JOINT WAS...
NOW TO SEE IF THE OLD HAND HAS LOST IT'S SKILL!
GOT TO HURRY...I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THEIR AIR WILL HOLD OUT....
I CAN'T FEEL THE TUMBLERS! WHAT'S WRONG?!
ANXIOUS MINUTES PASS...
THIS IS A TOUGH ONE, DIFFERENT FROM ANY-THING I'VE RUN ACROSS.. ...MUSTN'T GET NERVOUS!
EUREKA! WEED DOES IT AGAIN!
WEED! :Gasp! AND JUST IN TIME, BUDDY....WE WERE TURN-ING PURPLE!
YOU'RE A REAL HERO IN MY BOOK, WEED! I'LL TURN IN A REQUEST FOR A CITATION...
SAY, OLGA... WE CAN PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF BEFORE ALL THIS STARTED...
THANKS, GUY, BUT I'M SORRY... YOU'RE A NICE BOY, AND I DO LIKE YOU....
...BUT WEED'S MY IDEA OF A REAL MAN! HE'S MY HERO!! C'MON, WEED... LET'S GO FOR A SPIN!
GOOFY CHICK! SHE PREFERS THAT PIP-SQUEAK TO ME! ME!
OH, COME ON, GUY... LET'S REPORT IN!
The END

WALLACE WOOD

Wallace Wood was born on June 17, 1927 in Menahga, Minnesota. Primarily a self-taught artist, Wood briefly attended both the Minneapolis School of Art and Burne Hogarth's Cartoonists and Illustrators School in New York City (later to become the School of Visual Arts). He entered the comic-book field in 1949, freelancing for various publishers, including Avon and Ziff-Davis, among others. He is perhaps best known for his work with E.C.'s "New Trend" line in general and their science-fiction titles in particular. His solid composition and lush inking were perfectly presented in titles like *Weird Science* and *Weird Fantasy*, which required a constant parade of spaceships, monsters, and luscious women in skintight space suits. Wood also worked on the line's horror and war titles, such as *The Vault of Horror* and *Two-Fisted Tales*, and at the same time was a regular contributor to *MAD*.

After E.C. folded all of their titles except *MAD* in 1956, Wood launched a successful sideline to his comics career doing advertising work. He also continued freelancing widely, doing work for nearly every major comics publisher, including DC and Marvel. In 1965, Wood created *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents*, which was published by the newly formed Tower Comics in an arrangement that left Wood free from most administrative distractions and able to concentrate on the creative aspects of the demanding title. *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* lasted for nineteen issues, ending its original run in 1968, and has since been recognized as one of the best new titles to come out of the 1960s.

At the same time as *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* was establishing itself, Wood also launched his pro-zine *witzend*, assisted by longtime fanzine creators Bill Pearson and Dan Adkins. An outlet for material by comics artists that could not be published in the mainstream, *witzend* served as a template for the explosion of underground comics at the end of the 1960s and is still being published today.

Wood continued working through the 1970s, contributing artwork for publishers as diverse as Warren and Gold Key and sporadically self-publishing, but suffered from a variety of health problems that steadily diminished his abilities. He took his own life in Los Angeles on November 3, 1981.

DAN ADKINS

Born in 1937, Dan Adkins came to the world of comics through the parallel universe of science-fiction fanzines. After meeting fellow science-fiction enthusiast Bill Pearson while serving in the Air Force in the mid-1950s, the two young men started their own fanzine, *Sata*, and Adkins continued to do work for it and many other fanzines when he moved to New York City following his tour of duty. The idea for a new fanzine led Adkins to Wally Wood's studio in 1964, but instead of just getting some art from Wood to print, Adkins instead became Wood's assistant, and the fanzine evolved into the Wood-zine *witzend*, which Pearson continues to edit to this day. Adkins, meanwhile, assisted Wood on art and plotting until 1966 and was instrumental in the creation of the *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* title. Since then, Adkins has worked in the comics world for nearly four decades — inking, pencilling, and occasionally writing for a wide variety of publishers, including DC, Marvel, Warren, Charlton, and Eclipse — and he shows no signs of stopping.

DICK AYERS

A native of Ossining, New York, Dick Ayers was born in 1924 and began his comics career in 1947 doing pencils for M.E. Comics' *Funnyman*. He worked at M.E. until 1956, primarily illustrating Western features such as *Ghost Rider, Bobby Benson and the B-Bar-B Riders*, and *Calico Kid*, while also doing work for a variety of other publishers, including Tower, Charlton, Prize, St. John, and Timely/Atlas (later to become Marvel). After the relaunch of the Marvel line in the early 1960s, Ayers worked primarily for Marvel for many years, illustrating *Captain America, The Incredible Hulk, Combat Kelly, Ka-Zar*, and many others, including a celebrated run with inker John Severin on *Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos*. A dedicated professional, Ayers has also taught for both the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art and the Guggenheim Museum. He continues to produce work for various publishers, especially his beloved Westerns.

RICHARD BASSFORD

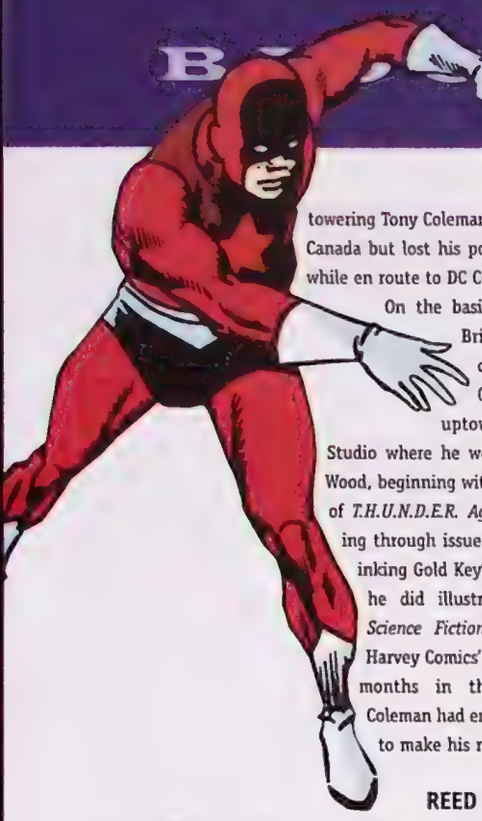
Advertising illustrator Richard Bassford is a native New Yorker who was born in Manhattan in 1936. He entered comics in 1957 with *World of Mystery* and later did illustrations for *Galaxy Science Fiction*. Bassford worked with Wood on the second issue of *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents*, assisting Wood with the pencilling of "Dynamo Battles Dynavac" (later reprinted in Tower's *The Terrific Trio* paperback). Adkins, Wood and Bassford also drew pages for *The Munsters* (Gold Key), based on the 1964-66 CBS comedy series. Warren Publications, always fishing for talented artists, hooked Bassford during the early 1970s, as evident in both *Creepy* (#39, #41) and *Eerie* (#39). Bassford continued to do cartoons and illustrations for corporate audio-visual advertising art presentations over the years, making a brief return to comics in 1986's *Lurid Tales*.

LEN BROWN

Born in Brooklyn in 1941, Len Brown created the character of Dynamo and scripted the lead Dynamo stories in three of the first four issues. Inspired by his youthful fascination with the mysterious Thunder Riders in Gene Autry's *The Phantom Empire* (1935), Brown invented the team name, "Thunder Agents" — which Wood then embellished into "T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents." Wood gave the name Leonard Brown to Dynamo's alter ego as a surprise for his friend. *Creepy* and *Nightmare* also published Brown's scripts, and his stories for *Mars Attacks Comics* reunited him with the property he co-created in 1963 at the Topps Company. Working at Topps from 1959-2000, Brown helped develop many trading cards, including *Civil War, Mars Attacks, Wacky Packages* and *Garbage Pail Kids*. As Topps' Creative Director, Brown worked closely with heavyweights like Harvey Kurtzman, Art Spiegelman, Jack Davis, Wally Wood, Norm Saunders, and Al Williamson, and he was an editor for Topps Comics (*Space: Above and Beyond, Xena*). Brown also worked as a disc jockey with New Jersey stations WTTM, WNJN, and WDVR, and he currently broadcasts at KOOP in Austin, Texas. Brown and his wife Abby retired to Dripping Springs, Texas in 2000.

TONY COLEMAN

Leaving England to seek his fortune in American comics, the



towering Tony Coleman (b. 1932) went to Canada but lost his portfolio and money while en route to DC Comics in New York. On the basis of his work for British digest war comics, DC's Joe Orlando sent him uptown to the Wood Studio where he worked closely with Wood, beginning with the second issue of *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* and continuing through issue #5. In addition to inking Gold Key's *Fantastic Voyage*, he did illustrations for *Galaxy Science Fiction* and worked on Harvey Comics' *Warfront*. After six months in the Wood Studio, Coleman had enough cash in hand to make his return to England.

REED CRANDALL

Born in Winslow, Indiana in 1917, Reed Crandall displayed a natural flair for drawing from his earliest years — a talent that grew as he did, eventually winning him a scholarship to the Cleveland School of Art in Ohio and then an invitation to illustrate children's books in New York. Once there, Crandall quickly moved from books to editorial cartooning work for the NEA Syndicate, and then to a staff job as an artist for Will Eisner and Jerry Iger's legendary comics production house. Soon afterwards, Crandall was hired by Everett M. "Busy" Arnold to work exclusively for his Quality Comics line, where he quickly made the Blackhawk feature in *Military Comics* one of the era's best war comics.

Crandall worked for Quality until the early 1950s, when he moved to the up-and-coming E.C. Publications. Together with his legendary artistic cohorts on E.C.'s "New Trend" titles, Crandall set a standard for comics craftsmanship that many say has never been equaled.

Crandall continued to work for various publishers throughout the 1950s and 1960s, perhaps peaking with a resurrection of his classic E.C. style in Warren's *Creepy, Eerie, Blazing Combat,* and *Vampirella* titles. His final story was published in 1973, just two years before he suffered a debilitating stroke. He died on September 13, 1982.

STEVE DITKO

The legendary Steve Ditko was born on November 2, 1927 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He received his art education at the Cartoonist and Illustrators School and shortly afterwards began working in comics, including a stint with Joe Simon and Jack Kirby's comics production shop in 1953. In the late 1950s he produced numerous horror stories for Charlton, Prize, St. John and Atlas (Marvel) Comics. His first super-hero work was a short run for Charlton on *Captain Atom* in 1960, but his real impact on comics came two years later when, with Stan Lee, he co-created Spider-Man (who first appeared in Marvel's *Amazing Fantasy* #15). Spider-Man was an instant hit, and Ditko's unique style fit the strip perfectly. The following year he co-created, again with Stan Lee, Dr. Strange. He left Marvel in 1966, but to this day his versions of these two characters remain the definitive ones.

After leaving Marvel Ditko freelanced for several publishers before returning to Charlton, where he revived both Captain Atom and The Blue Beetle and created perhaps one of his most personal characters, The Question (a variation on Mr. A, a character he created for Wally Wood's *witzend*). During this period Ditko also produced what many consider to be his most beautiful work, a handful of black-and-white horror stories for Warren's *Creepy* and *Eerie* magazines.

In 1968 Ditko created two features for DC Comics, *The Creeper* and *The Hawk and the Dove*, but left after a brief run for health reasons.

In the late 1970s Ditko returned to Marvel and worked on various second-string titles such as *Rom* and *Captain Universe*, but soon moved on. Since then he has primarily confined his work to highly philosophical strips published occasionally by various small publishers.

MIKE ESPOSITO

Born in 1927, Mike Esposito began his comics career at Fox in 1949. He met Ross Andru at Ziff-Davis in 1951 and worked mostly as his inker until 1976 at Ziff-Davis, Mikeross Publications, DC, and Marvel. Occasionally he would ink another penciller's work, including that of Curt Swan on SUPERMAN and Joe Orlando (and later Mike Sekowsky) on THE INFERIOR FIVE. When Andru left DC in 1976, Esposito remained at Marvel, continuing to ink the work of other pencillers, including Jim Mooney and John Romita, on *The Amazing Spider-Man*. He remains active in the field today at Archie Comics.

FRANK GIACOIA

Born in Italy in 1925, Frank Giacoia came to the United States at the age of seven. Trained in the Chesler and Iger shops during the early 1940s, Giacoia went on to become one of comics' most prolific inkers, with a career spanning five decades. His inks have adorned stories of nearly every major comic-book character from the Big Two publishers, including Batman, Superman, the Flash, Captain America, and the Fantastic Four. Giacoia passed away in 1989.

JOHN GIUNTA

Born in 1920, Giunta began his career working in Harry "A" Chesler's "comic shop" in the late 1930s and went on to illustrate for over a dozen comics publishers through the 1960s, including Magazine Enterprises (where he was also an editor), Feature, Hillman, Archie, Avon, DC, Marvel, and, of course, Tower. He passed away in 1970.

CARL HUBBELL

Artist Carl Hubbell began his career in comics in the 1940s, working on various genre books for publishers such as Archive and Lev Gleason. In the 1950s and 1960s he worked on war comics for Charlton and western comics for Marvel.

LARRY IVIE

The versatile writer-artist-editor Larry Ivie (b. 1936) did illustrations for numerous publications, including *Amazing Stories* and *Galaxy Science Fiction*. He was an early contributor to *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents*, and Wood's cover for *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents #12* was based on one of Ivie's roughs. Because editors Cal Beck and Bhob Stewart demanded horrific art for *Castle of Frankenstein*, early issues were Ivie-covered, and the tendrils of Ivie also crept forth with imaginative scripts in *Creepy, Eerie, Strange Tales,* and *Flash Gordon* before he moved on to editing and publishing *Larry Ivie's Monsters and Heroes* from 1967 to 1970. He was highly active in the recent revival of *Castle of Frankenstein* for publisher Dennis Druktenis.

BIOGRAPHIES

GIL KANE

Born in 1926, Kane and his family moved from their native Latvia to New York City when Kane was three. By the time he'd reached his late teens, Kane, an artistic prodigy, had left his mark on every major comics publisher of the day, including MLJ, Prize, Quality, Marvel — and DC, for whom he produced Wildcat, Johnny Thunder, and a plethora of Western, science-fiction and true crime tales. In 1959, he joined with John Broome to revive the Golden Age hero Green Lantern, in the process totally revamping the look of the strip and giving the Emerald Gladiator the trademark sleek, streamlined costume that is remembered to this day.

Over the years, Gil Kane's work has come to stand as the textbook definition of dynamic drawing. A master of style, Kane imbued each of his drawings with an unequaled sense of power and motion. Though Kane continued to illustrate GREEN LANTERN throughout the 1960s, he lent pencil and pen to many other series as well, such as Marvel Comics' *The Amazing Spider-Man* and *Captain America* and Tower's *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents*. Gil Kane passed away in 2000.

JOE ORLANDO

A formidable figure in the history of comics, Joe Orlando first worked with Wally Wood in 1950, when the two artists formed a studio to produce science-fiction material. After a short time, he followed Wood to E.C., where he honed his skills in the company's legendary science-fiction and horror titles of the "New Trend" line. He went on to contribute artwork to many publishers (most prolifically to Warren's E.C.-inspired titles *Creepy* and *Eerie*) before becoming an editor at DC in 1966. In the course of his long and successful career there, Orlando rose to become a Vice President and was the company's Editorial Director until 1996. He passed away in 1998.

BILL PEARSON

Born in Belle Fourche, South Dakota in 1938, Bill Pearson was an assistant editor on Wallace Wood's *witzend* magazine when he became involved in the creation of the T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents team. In addition to scripting a half-dozen NoMan tales for *T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents* and an equal number of *Undersea Agent* stories, he did ghostwriting on Wood's Dynamo scripts. Pearson also wrote *Flash Gordon* adventures (King Comics), *Popeye* (Whitman) and stories for Warren, Charlton, Eclipse, and Gladstone. He continues to edit and publish *witzend* at ever-increasing intervals.

RALPH REESE

Beginning as an assistant to Wally Wood in the mid-1960s, Ralph Reese easily segued into numerous underground comics and *National Lampoon* in the 1970s. His mainstream comics work includes a beginning with the Crusty Bunkers and artwork for Marvel, DC, Eclipse, and Acclaim Comics.

MIKE SEKOWSKY

A tremendously versatile and talented artist, Michael Sekowsky entered the comics field while it was still in its infancy. In 1941, he began work at Timely/Marvel Comics and was soon pencilling some of its top heroes, including Captain America, the Human Torch, and the Sub-Mariner. Sekowsky joined DC in the early 1950s and quickly became known for his dynamic renditions of alien worlds and space-faring heroes such as Adam Strange, whom Sekowsky co-created with Gardner Fox. Nevertheless, he is best remembered as the penciller of the wildly successful Justice League of America, which was drawn exclusively by Sekowsky for its first eight years. Though never considered one of comics' more polished artists, Sekowsky more than compensated for any roughness with impeccable and dynamic storytelling. Sekowsky remained active in comics and television animation until his death in 1989.

STEVE SKEATES

A native and longtime resident of the Empire State, Steve Skeates began his work in comics as an assistant editor at Marvel Comics in 1965 — a job which he quickly abandoned in favor of writing comics as a full-time freelancer. Over the next twenty years he did work for nearly every major comics publisher, including DC, Marvel, Charlton, Tower, Warren, and Gold Key. Since leaving mainstream comics in the mid-1980s, he has worked as a reporter, bartender, and Zamboni operator, as well as publishing his own comics titles, which he continues to do from his home base in Fairport, New York.

SAL TRAPANI

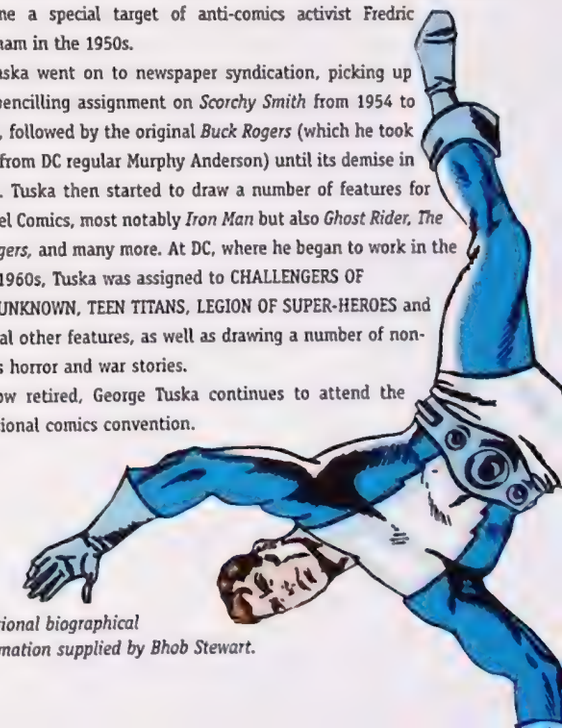
Born in 1927, artist Sal Trapani attended the Cartoonist and Illustrator School and the Jean Morgan School of Art. He began his career in comics at the Iger studio in 1950. In the mid-1950s he worked on numerous western, war, teen and TV comics. In the 1960s he worked extensively for Dell Comics on their short-lived super-hero line as well as on Western's (Gold Key) genre titles. He inked the *Superman* syndicated strip from 1980 through 1985 and also worked extensively in animation. The brother-in-law of longtime DC inker and Vice President Dick Giordano, Trapani passed away in 1999.

GEORGE TUSKA

George Tuska (b. 1916) launched his career in the late 1930s at the Eisner-Iger studio and is one of several regulars immortalized in Eisner's autobiographical graphic novel *The Dreamer*, where he appears under the name of "Gar Tooth." He went on to work for several publishers, including Fiction House and Quality, but his most famous Golden Age work appeared in the second issue of Fawcett's *Captain Marvel Adventures* and in the *Crime Does Not Pay* series published by Lev Gleason. A serious crime title aimed at an older audience, *Crime Does Not Pay* was one of the top-selling comic books in the world, ceasing publication only when it became a special target of anti-comics activist Fredric Wertham in the 1950s.

Tuska went on to newspaper syndication, picking up the pencilling assignment on *Scorchy Smith* from 1954 to 1959, followed by the original *Buck Rogers* (which he took over from DC regular Murphy Anderson) until its demise in 1965. Tuska then started to draw a number of features for Marvel Comics, most notably *Iron Man* but also *Ghost Rider, The Avengers,* and many more. At DC, where he began to work in the late 1960s, Tuska was assigned to CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, TEEN TITANS, LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES and several other features, as well as drawing a number of non-series horror and war stories.

Now retired, George Tuska continues to attend the occasional comics convention.



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From their foreword to Volume One

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ISBN: 1-56389-970-1
DIRECT SALES
00211
7 61941 23541 7
$49.95 USA • $82.95 CAN
PRINTED IN HONG KONG.